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NEWS
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SHARING.

Mouse trap

Local mom raises alarm about talent company that uses misleading ads.
Story, page 12.



No Metro on Monday

Metro won't be publishing on Family Day, but look for us again on Tuesday



A TIME TO LAUGH

Liz Manley breaks out in laughter during a practice session in Barrhaven on Thursday ahead of her "Elizabeth Manley & Friends" fundraising show on Saturday at TD Place. Manley, who hails from Ottawa, won a silver medal for Canada in figure skating at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. See story, page 6.

MIKE CARROCCETTO/METRO

Powering parties with sunshine

Energy. New solar company could change the way we power an array of events



TREVOR GREENWAY

trevor.greenway@metronews.ca

A new solar startup in Ottawa could change the way festivals, fairs and outdoor parties power their events — with clean, green, mobile solar energy.

Jordan West is one of three partners at Solar On Site — a mobile solar company that says it will bring panels to your event and generate enough power to run everything from a full food vendor market, a Christmas light display and even the entire food court at Ottawa Bluesfest.

"We are trying to create a mobile solar generator business here in the festival city of Ottawa," said West. "Every festival under the

sun wants (to be) more and more green and that is the way that we all have to start thinking."

The system is a trailer with solar panels on the side and top.

Inside are shelves of batteries that feed power to a festival. West said because of new advances in solar energy, the panels have tracking capability and can be optimized to yield the most sunlight possible, regardless of clouds or trailer direction.

That allows Solar On Site to provide power day or night, rain or shine, as they are able to keep the batteries at near 100 per cent during an entire all-day event.

According to West, the system doesn't even need sunlight, as ambient lighting from TD Place's stadium lights would be enough for him to run a food market on the street.

"We can provide power anywhere you need it, from a farmer's field to a parking lot," he said, adding that the

technology finally puts an end to the loud, humming, gas-guzzling generators.

The company is now ready for its first official event this weekend: running the entire Winterlude Beaver Cup Pond Hockey Tournament — powering all the lights, heaters and CHEZ 106's live broadcast booth.

"Within our little hut, they should be able to set up everything they need to do their remote broadcast and they will be nice and warm all day with heaters."

The opportunities the system provides are astronomical, says West, who sees the mobile systems eventually powering anything from massive music festivals, weddings and remote mining and construction sites to being used in northern communities and internationally for disaster relief.

Follow Trevor Greenway on Twitter @TrevorGreenway



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2014 Toyota Camry
41,761km, Rev. Camera, Clim Stk: 36431

\$52***
weekly



\$13,950

2013 Mitsubishi Lancer
30,075km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36454

\$59*
weekly



\$11,860

2011 Subaru Impreza H.B. AWD
97,473km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36445

\$55**
weekly



\$12,860

2012 Mazda 3
39,115km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36505


\$65*
weekly



\$12,960

2011 Ford Focus SES
59,470km, Clim, Lthr, Mags Stk: 34927

\$54**
weekly



\$10,860

2011 Honda Civic DX-G
99,803km, Clim, Mags Stk: 35915

\$52***
weekly



\$13,950

2013 Toyota Corolla
52,919km, Clim Stk: 36194

\$84*
weekly



\$16,880

2010 Toyota RAV4 4wd
96,409km, Clim, Mags Stk: 35896

\$82*
weekly



\$16,360

2010 Honda CR-V LX 4wd
99,627km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36226

\$89*
weekly



\$17,700

2011 Mitsubishi RVR SE 4wd
49,134km, Clim, Mags Stk: 34348A

\$58*
weekly



\$11,650

2011 Dodge Calibre SXT
55,486km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36342

\$105**
weekly



\$24,650

2012 Ford F-150 XLT 4wd
49,619km, Clim, Mags Stk: 35972A

\$71***
weekly



\$18,940

2014 Jeep Patriot 4wd
35,601km, Clim Stk: 36161

\$75*
weekly



\$14,960

2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS
83,000km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36493

\$75*
weekly



\$14,930

2010 Hyundai Santa Fe 4wd
96,650km, Auto, Clim, Mags Stk: 35712

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weekly



\$22,870

2010 Dodge Ram 1500
65,575km, Auto, Clim, Mags Stk: 35538

\$83*
weekly



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2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD
73,507km, Cam, Lthr, Mags Stk: 35895

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2012 Nissan Quest S
65,005km, Clim Stk: 36000

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2013 Mazda CX-5 Sport
58,852km, Clim Stk: 36504

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weekly



\$17,760

2013 Nissan Rogue 4wd
53,185km, Clim Stk: 36429

\$89*
weekly



\$17,840

2011 Ford Edge SE
89,845km, Clim, Lthr, Mags Stk: 36110

\$102***
weekly



\$27,340

2013 Nissan Xterra 4wd
38,536km, Load, Clim, Mags Stk: 35944

\$45**
weekly



\$10,650

2012 Nissan Versa SL
87,115km, Clim, NAV Stk: 36422

\$52***
weekly



\$13,960

2014 Dodge Avenger SXT
40,663km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36315

\$74*
weekly



\$14,850

2011 Buick Regal CXL
63,725km, Clim, Lthr, Roof Stk: 36550

\$45**
weekly



\$10,630

2012 Hyundai Elantra GLS
88,180km, Clim Stk: 36475

\$55*
weekly



\$10,960

2010 Mazda 5
71,899km, Clim, Mags Stk: 36209

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Family Day

What's opened and closed?

- Shopping Malls are closed on Family Day, with the exception of Rideau Centre, which is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Banks are closed.
- Ottawa Public Libraries are closed.
- Grocery stores are closed, with the exception of Loblaws' Rideau Street location, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Metro's Rideau Street location, open 24 hours.
- LCBO and Beer Stores are closed.
- Canada Post will be open.
- OC Transpo will run on a reduced weekday schedule. Routes 196 and 201 will not run. School routes in the 600s and special school trips on regular routes will not run.
- There will be no curbside green bin, recycling or garbage pickup on Family Day. Collection will take place the next day and will be delayed by one day for the rest of the week.
- Most museums are open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Ottawa City Hall will be closed on Family Day. The City Hall Rink of Dreams will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The Skating Court at Lansdowne Park will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Movie theatres are open.



Lara Bialowas, 10, rolls a giant bowling ball toward pins as Elie Cantin-Nantel, 12, watches during a dry run of Family Day activities at the National Arts Centre. The NAC will have a full slate of activities on Family Day Monday related to the theme of scale, including giant rock-paper-scissors games, theatre games, dance workshops and more. For more information on activities, go online to nac-cna.ca. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Get ready to enjoy Family Day, Ottawa

Holiday. Host of activities this weekend and Monday

Not sure what to do this Family Day? Missing out on the new holiday and you want to jam in the fun this weekend? Well, take a look here at these activities and events happening in the capital.

In its final weekend, Winterville will host events for the entire family at its three official sites.

A public snow-sculpting workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Jacques-Cartier

Park, as well as a free introduction to downhill skiing for children aged five to eight.

Meanwhile, at Confederation Park, kids and adults alike can take part in building a giant ice mosaic sculpture from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also taking place at that time, the Kettle Boys will demonstrate rope-making and handcrafted wooden toys.

On Saturday, the new Minto Recreation Complex in Barrhaven will host free public swimming from 10 a.m. to noon and free public skating from 1 to 4 p.m. Mayor Jim Watson and Coun. Jan Harder will be on-site at 10 a.m. Tours of the new facility will be rotating throughout the day.

For the outdoor and nature enthusiasts, Family Day events are planned for several Ontario Provincial Parks.

Algonquin's "Winter in the Wild" (Saturday) will have indoor and outdoor activities, including an evening hike and wolf howl.

A highlight of MacGregor Point's two-day Snowfest will be a mini Family Winter Triathlon (Saturday to Monday). The Pinery's Family Day activities will focus on park wildlife from tiny predators to Great Horned Owls (Saturday to Monday).

Killarney's Activity Days include winter photography lessons and stargazing in the park's own observatory (Saturday to Monday).

day to Monday) and at Bronte Creek (Monday), there will be skating on the Olympic-sized outdoor rink, craft-making and the Play Barn will be open all day. Most Family Day activities are free with a park permit.

Lace up your skates and join Mayor Watson at the Sens Rink of Dreams downtown at Ottawa City Hall, for the Mayor's Annual Family Day Skating Party, Monday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free hot chocolate will be served and feature other special guests. Meanwhile, Skating Court at Lansdowne Park will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. with the heated changing facility open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

NELLY ELAYOUBI/FOR METRO

1 NEWS



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Michael Spratt, a criminal defence lawyer with Ottawa law firm Webber Schroeder Goldstein Abergel, says it is "a large concern" that his blog is being blocked by Government of Ontario computer networks. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Blocked-blog episode 'troubling,' says lawyer

Security. Province says site's hosting server flagged as 'compromised'



JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Outspoken criminal defence lawyer Michael Spratt said it is "troubling" that his website was temporarily blocked by the Government of Ontario's computer network for more than 24 hours after an apparent security threat this week.

His blog, michaelspratt.com, was inaccessible to provincial government computers from 10:06 a.m. Wednesday until 4:45 p.m. Thursday.

Spratt shared a screen capture of a security notice on Twitter after a friend in the

Quoted

"Censorship, whether intentionally or incidentally, weakens the vibrancy of our democracy."

Criminal defence lawyer Michael Spratt

government tried unsuccessfully to access his website.

Spratt's website often contains commentary and critiques of criminal court cases, legislation and government policy.

The block came shortly after Spratt posted a scathing entry criticizing the justice system's handling of alleged misdeeds by police and highlighting a number of decisions that criticized an Ottawa police officer.

After confirming that the website was still blocked through most of Thursday, Metro contacted the department of Government and Consumer Services to ask why.

Just before 6 p.m., Alan Cairns, a spokesman for the Treasury Board Secretariat of Ontario, emailed Metro and Spratt, advising his blog was accessible on government networks.

It had been blocked, according to the spokesman's email, because the government's automated web-filtering service had flagged the server hosting Spratt's blog as "compromised."

"This is no reflection on the integrity of Mr. Spratt or his website.... We are not aware of any complaints against the site," wrote Cairns.

According to Cairns' mes-

sage, it's rare for websites to be unavailable to the province's computers exclusively.

"Complaints about (Ontario Public Service) employee inability to access to websites have been few over the years.

"We look into all concerns that are raised."

Satisfied with the reversal of the block, Spratt was left with doubts as to why it was flagged in the first place.

Spratt said his blog is hosted on a "secure, legitimate" server and was not aware of any recent viruses or security threats.

"Despite the response, I still think government blocking of web sites is a dangerous practice," he wrote in a follow-up email to Metro.

"Censorship, whether intentionally or incidentally, weakens the vibrancy of our democracy."

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Skating legends Manley, Stojko ready to spin for mental health

Fundraising dinner and performance. Olympic medallists lace up to support Do It for Daron



TREVOR GREENWAY
trevor.greenway@metronews.ca

It may have been 25 years ago that Elizabeth Manley won her dramatic silver medal at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, but the iconic Ottawa figure skater proved she still has the moves.

Manley, accompanied by two-time Olympic silver medallist Elvis Stojko, was executing her spins at the Minto Recreation Complex Thursday as she geared up for her two-day fundraiser to support mental-health initiatives in Ottawa this weekend.



Elizabeth Manley, Elvis Stojko and Stojko's wife Gladys Orozco-Stojko take a selfie during a practice session in Barrhaven Thursday. The Elizabeth Manley & Friends fundraising show will be held on Saturday at TD Place. MIKE CARROCCETTO/METRO

It all starts Friday with a Skate Gala dinner at the Brookstreet Hotel, where

guests can mingle with Manley, Stojko and other skating greats Shawn Sawyer and

Kimmie Meissner.

But the real show is on Saturday when Manley and

crew will don their figure skates and put on a dazzling, dizzying figure-skating show.

But Manley wants people to know the show features much more than just skating.

"They are going to see a spectacular show," she said. "It's not just a figure skating show. We have got Alan Frew with Glass Tiger who is going to be rocking it throughout the show."

"We have an aerialist that is amazing, she will be flying over the ice on skates, we have an acrobat team, so it's a real mixture of variety, not just figure skating. Every single kind of person will enjoy this show."

Tickets for the show range between \$52-\$120 with a portion of the proceeds going to Do It for Daron (DIFD) through the Ottawa Senators Foundation and to the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa.

Tickets for the dinner are \$400.

WITH FILES FROM MIKE CARROCCETTO

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Nordstrom barista Evan McHardy serves up a couple of espressos during the store's media tour on Thursday.
NELLY ELAYOUBI/FOR METRO

Nordstrom pulls back the curtain

Shopping. Luxury retailer offers a sneak peek of new Rideau Centre location

NELLY ELAYOUBI
ottawa@metronews.ca

When the doors open for Nordstrom in Ottawa on March 6, don't expect a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Instead, customers can expect employees to be gathered at the entrance points of the swanky department store, clapping and welcoming people as they roll through the doors. Customer service, said spokesman John Bailey, is pivotal to the Nordstrom name.

"We hope customers share their feedback with us," Bailey said following a media tour of the department store Thursday. "We will be doing a lot of listening and learning."

The massive 157,000-square-foot store was busy with employees working feverishly in preparation for next month's grand opening with packages being unwrapped, tiles being laid, and

Features

- Nordstrom's fully licensed restaurant, Bazille, will offer signature cocktails and an extensive wine list.
- An outdoor patio will come equipped with heat lamps and seating for 60 people.
- Expect 9,000 bras ranging from sizes A-J.
- Also expect 3,000 men's shirts and more than 1,200 ties.
- Customers will be able to get their shoes shined for \$2.50.

final touches being made to change rooms.

Bright with high ceilings and natural light streaming in, the revamped space is anything but a shadow of its former self.

Bailey listed countless brands that will be offered at Nordstrom — including brands exclusive to Ottawa such as Jimmy Choo, Valentino and Pedro Garcia, as well

as signature names Steve Madden, TOMS and Sorel.

There will be five shoe departments, three for women alone.

Nordstrom got its beginnings as a shoe store in the U.S. in 1901, and as Bailey states: "Shoes are the root of our culture."

The Rideau Centre will house the second Nordstrom store to open in Canada, the first location opening in Calgary last summer. More stores are slated to open across Canada over the next two years.

Opening day will feature a "beauty bash" from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. where customers can receive a free beauty consultation.

More than 2,700 job applications were received for the Rideau Centre location, with 616 carefully screened sales associates making the final cut. Clusters of staff in various departments were receiving their training Thursday and abuzz with excitement.

Store manager John Banks promises customers will be well taken care of in an effort to build customer trust and satisfaction.

"We are going to work hard at it," Banks said.

Charity

Retailer raises \$180K for United Way, cancer foundation

In an effort to create links with the Ottawa community, Nordstrom has named both United Way Ottawa and the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation as the beneficiaries of its opening-day gala.

The March 6 event is sold out, with 100 per cent of ticket sales going to the two charities.

"We are excited, as \$180,000 was raised for the two organizations to split," said John Banks, store manager for Rideau Centre's Nordstrom.

That's welcome news for Michael Allen, president and chief executive officer of United Way Ottawa, who said the money will specifically benefit "Project Step," a youth-addiction treatment and prevention initiative created in 2007.

Since then, two residential substance-abuse programs have been established for youth in Ottawa, when prior to that there were none.

Furthermore, every Ottawa high school offers counselling for addictions, along with education and awareness components.

"We are very grateful to be building this relationship with Nordstrom," Allen said.

Since its inception, the program has measured its success with 94 per cent of youth completing high school and 70 per cent reporting either a reduced use of substances or complete abstinence.

"That's an awesome success rate," Allen said. "Particularly the completion-of-high-school rate."

NELLY ELAYOUBI/FOR METRO



United Way/Centraide Ottawa president and CEO Michael Allen
METRO FILE

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City conducts safety audit of Airport Parkway bridge following complaints



Residents walk across the Airport Parkway pedestrian bridge as part of a safety audit the city is conducting. Councillors invited residents to participate in the audit on Feb. 3. ALEX ROBINSON/METROLAND

Infrastructure.

Darkness, poor visibility, snow clearing among concerns voiced by residents

ALEX ROBINSON
ottawa@metronews.ca

While the new Airport Parkway pedestrian bridge has given Sandi London an easy link from her neighborhood to the South Keys transit station, certain isolated stretches of the new path have made her feel vulnerable.

The Hunt Club resident walks the pedestrian bridge every evening when returning home from work but she always feels uneasy when she arrives at a particular spot.

"Nobody can see you here," she said. "You're down

in a hollow, and when the leaves come out on the trees, there's going to be a complete barricade here. When you're walking down here and it's dark, it's a little creepy."

Prompted by similar concerns from dozens of residents, Coun. Riley Brockington (River) and Coun. Diane Dean (Gloucester-Southgate) held a walkthrough of the bridge on Feb. 3. More than 20 residents attended to voice their worries to the city, which is conducting a safety audit.

Councillors, police community officers and city staff walked along the path with residents in order to get a sense from them what the main issues are.

"It's one thing for me to make recommendations, but it's important to get feedback from the people that use this bridge day in and day out," said Stuart Benson, a safety adviser with the city who is

conducting the audit.

The main concern from residents was that of London: there is a section of the path that is completely isolated from sight that runs parallel with the creek.

John Sankey, the president of the Hunt Club Community Organization, suggested trimming the hedges that run along the section of pathway.

"It will greatly reduce the feelings of insecurity," he said.

The councillors are going to hold a second walkthrough with residents in the spring to observe how foliage will affect the path. Benson will then use the public input and his own observations to draft a report recommending what needs to be done to the bridge.

Brockington's office had heard dozens of complaints concerning safety on the bridge since it opened in November after years of delays.

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Ottawa mom warns others about company's modelling auditions

Acting industry.

Radio ads make liberal mention of Disney, but firm has no connection to entertainment giant



JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Ads for auditions in Ottawa that liberally mention Disney TV shows may sound attractive, but one local mom says she's pulling her daughter out after reading the fine print on the host company's website.

The ModelandTalent.tv radio ad says "How would you like to be on the Disney Channel? If it is your dream to be in a movie or real TV show like Austin & Ally or Dog With a Blog, listen up!"

But the company isn't affiliated with Disney.

Despite that, the ad goes on to say auditions are for Model and Talent and their listings include Disney and Marvel movies. Listeners are asked to call 877-966-1107. Disney shows Austin & Ally and Dog With a Blog are mentioned three times in the ad.

"So, if you want to be on the Disney Channel or a TV show like Austin & Ally or Dog With a Blog, be one of the first 200 callers right now and the next superstar could be you!" the voice says.

Angela Christiano says her daughter heard the ads on Ottawa's Boom 99.7 radio station and called the phone number for more information before heading to the Marriott Hotel on Saturday.

But her Google search of



This film image released by Disney shows, Iron Man, portrayed by Robert Downey Jr., left, and Captain America, portrayed by Chris Evans, in a scene from The Avengers. While a company calling itself ModelandTalent.tv has radio ads that make liberal mention of Disney and films such as the Avengers in its pitch for parents to bring their kids to an audition call, Disney says it has no connection with the firm. DISNEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the company led to a recent CTV News report and now she says she's going to walk away.

ModelandTalent.tv is a Las Vegas-based "commercial networking service" that helps give models and actors "Internet exposure" and other resources to match them with auditions and casting calls, according to the company's website. The company says in fine print on its website that it is not a talent agency, employment agency or school.

A company with the same name ran an audition in Vancouver in January and parents there told CTV they were told they had to pay thousands of

dollars to be a member and have their kids' photos posted on a personalized website.

In a statement to Metro, Disney spokeswoman Patti McTeague said "Disney Channel is not affiliated with any advance-fee agency, acting school or acting workshop and has not authorized talent searches through such entities, including Model and Talent in Ottawa."

The website Ripoff Report published a negative review about Model and Talent from August 2014, complaining about the company charging exorbitant fees.

"I'm obviously not going,

I'm not making any accusations ... I just thought that people might want to be aware of what's there," said Christiano.

An unnamed representative of Model and Talent wrote in an email to Metro the media report was "inaccurate and unfair." The email also said the company was free under copyright law to mention the Disney trademarks.

The representative declined to answer questions about costs for its service and said parents will be given pricing information in a brochure when they arrive.

Paying members will re-

ceive "personal profile webpage, model and talent database listing, online resume, picture hosting, auditions/casting opportunities" among other services, according to the email.

Daniel Laliberté, general manager of the Marriott Hotel, where the auditions are being held, said the company booked two days at the hotel and he has no concerns about the company's scheduled workshops and interviews.

"We have no reason to doubt they are doing that in good faith," he said.

An email Model and Talent sent to Christiano raises more questions.

The email contained an attachment, a Word document, which included directions to the Ottawa hotel, some instructions for the audition, samples of scripts, and near the bottom two headshots of women with text congratulating them on their purported new roles.

"Congrats to Gianna for booking two films this month!" reads a caption under the first photo.

A Google image search of the photo returns results showing the photo is linked to three websites, including two pornography websites.

The other website linked to the "Gianna" photo is called Castinghub.com, which is also a target of negative reviews online. This website is not accessible to the public and 28 complaints have been filed against it in the past three years, according to the Better Business Bureau.

Mark Dickie, Boom 99.7's general manager, did not respond to Metro's repeated requests for comment.

Buyer beware

Marketing expert raises questions about ad

Parents headed to Model and Talent's audition should ask for evidence of previous clients landing real roles on legitimate TV shows and movies before they open their wallets, said an Ottawa expert in marketing and consumer behavior.

"The service is, although somewhat cryptic, it seems a legitimate service," said Michael Mulvey, assistant professor of marketing at the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management. What he has a problem with is the name dropping of Disney and it's TV shows in the ad.

"If they form inferences that Disney is aware of this, Disney's given their consent, Disney endorses what they're doing, they definitely have the capacity to deceive here for sure," said Mulvey. The fact that Disney's TV shows are repeated three times in the ad can lead the audience to infer Model and Talent might have a history of success in landing roles for young actors, Mulvey said.

But exaggeration in advertising is not only common, it's expected, he said.

"It's definitely worth a closer look," he said.

JOE LOFARO/METRO



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Hummus maker carries on dad's dream

Garlic Gardens. Joey Ghattas offers fresh hummus made with mostly local ingredients



TREVOR GREENWAY
trevor.greenway@metronews.ca

Joey Ghattas' first memories as a child are of being with his dad Joseph in the kitchen, crushing garlic, juicing lemons and blending together the famous family hummus.

It was the hummus that was always a party favourite at Lebanese family get-togethers, and dad's dream was to someday open up a Lebanese café or start his own hummus brand.

But he died of cancer in 2008 and never got to realize those dreams. Now, the 26-year-old Ghattas is picking up his father's dreams, starting his own small-batch hummus company called Garlic Garden.

"When he passed away in 2008, I started reflecting on what he didn't get to do, and it started to make me think about how I could take his hummus



Garlic Garden president Joey Ghattas will soon be selling his small-batch hummus at FarmBoy. CONTRIBUTED

and everything that he made and do something with it that he wanted to do," said Ghattas. "I think it will be nice to pay

tribute to my father."

Ghattas learned to make hummus from his pops, but he has added his own flair with

flavours like Southwest Chipotle, Cilantro Jalapeño and Cumin Curry, among others.

Part of what separates Gar-

lic Garden small-batch hummus from the tubs you see on store shelves are the ingredients, says Ghattas. While hum-

mus can sit on a store shelf for weeks and weeks, Garlic Garden hummus is made fresh and eaten fresh.

"The problem with the hummus sold in the stores is that they are full of preservatives and GMOs. That is how they last on the shelves for three months," added Ghattas. "It's supposed to be made fresh and eaten fairly quickly; it's not something that you are supposed to make and store away."

Ghattas tries his best to source everything as local as possible — garlic from Mariposa Farm about 50 kilometres east of Ottawa, oil and chickpeas from Montreal and spices from local health-food stores in the city.

He does have to import some things, such as jalapeños and peppers in the winter.

Ghattas doesn't have a shop yet and is relying on his website for custom orders. But he has reached an agreement with FarmBoy to start selling his hummus at locations across the city sometime this spring.

Next for Ghattas is opening up his own little shop, where he will sell hummus, tabbouleh and pita chips.

Local animator planning to sell massive collection

Rule No. 1 for serious collectors: don't throw anything away.

What began as a childhood passion for drawing cartoons and collecting comic books has, almost 60 years later, developed into what Peter Adamakos believes could be the largest private collection of animation and movie memorabilia in Canada. There are well over 100,000 items, many of them rare, signed original pieces.

His Hunt Club home is dotted with just a small portion of his collection; thousands of items are safely stored off site. Old metal film canisters line one wall in his kitchen, some of them dating back to the silent-film days. Others feature Disney movie trailers.

Decades of effort have gone into amassing the collection, through which Adamakos has found tremendous joy since he was a child with visions of following in the footsteps of iconic animator Walt Disney.

But now he's planning to sell everything off for two reasons. Adamakos, 68, doesn't have anyone to pass the collection down to, and he said he hasn't combed through many of the items in decades.



Peter Adamakos METROLAND

"I can't take it with me," he said. "I always wondered what was going to happen. Time's catching up. I think if I haven't looked at a given book for 30 years or 10 years, it's time to pass it on to somebody who would appreciate it."

But before he can, he needs help from volunteers willing to help catalogue it all before it's sold. Adamakos envisions staging a two-day convention this fall. The plan is still in its infancy, and he's still looking for event sponsors.

More than half a dozen volunteers have so far catalogued almost 5,000 items, including a

couple hundred comic books, lobby cards or small movie posters and movie-themed records.

The list appears bottomless.

The eastern Ontario chapter of the Kidney Foundation of Canada has been helping Adamakos secure volunteers after the veteran animation producer offered to provide the registered charity with a portion of the proceeds generated from the sale.

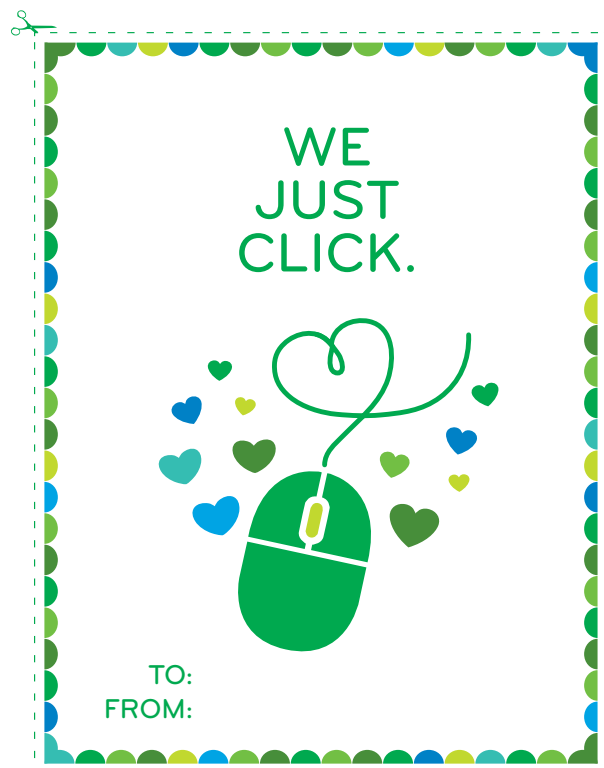
Bruce Hill, an Ottawa-based senior development officer with the foundation who looks after fundraising, took Adamakos' initial call last summer.

When Hill visited the artist and producer at his home, the visit proved to be a walk down memory lane. He saw animation cells from Mickey Mouse shows he remembers watching in the 1960s.

"Just to see it in the flesh was, so to speak, just fascinating," said Hill, who was also blown away by the film canisters stacked in the kitchen. "We're now only beginning to scratch the surface."

To volunteer for cataloguing, call Peter Adamakos at 613-247-9207.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

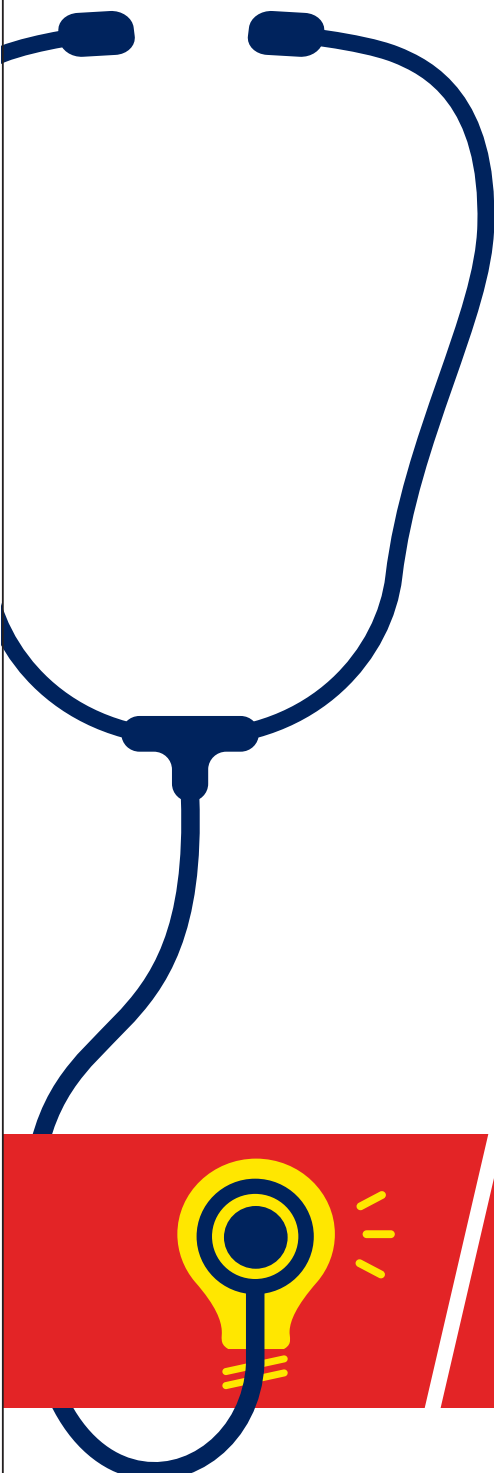


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Toronto doctors hopeful second twin girl will find liver donor soon

Urgent. 400 potential donors are available, so Binh's survival chances are good after her sister Phouc already received part of her Dad's liver

Several potential organ donors are undergoing tests at a Toronto hospital and doctors say they are hopeful they will soon find a match for a little girl who needs a new liver to survive.

Three-year-old Phouc Wagner, who has Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects vital organs, received a part of her father's liver Tuesday, but her twin sister Binh, who suffers from the same condition, is still waiting for a donor.

Dr. Gary Levy, who runs the liver donor program at the Toronto General Hospital, said Phouc and her father, Michael



Doctor Gary Levy and Johanne Wagner, wife of Michael Wagner and mother of twins Phouc and Binh Wagner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wagner, are "recovering well" following the surgeries.

He said more than 400 potential donors have come forward since the Kingston,

Ont., family made a public plea last month and he hopes a donor match for Binh is close.

"We anticipate that within the next short while, seven to

14 days, we will define several individuals who can step forward to be the donor for Binh," Dr. Levy said.

Phouc remains in hospital

Worldwide attention

The twin girls' story made headlines around the world when the family said it couldn't possibly decide which daughter would receive the donation, so they left it to doctors to pick the best candidate based on medical reasons. Michael Wagner couldn't donate multiple parts of his liver to both girls because he wouldn't have enough left to live, Dr. Levy said. So the family waits. Dr. Binita Kamath, a liver specialist at SickKids hospital, said Binh is stable at the moment, but needs a new liver within the next several months.

hold her, I'm very much a cuddler," Johanne Wagner said.

The surgery has been difficult on the family, who have nine children.

"It's hard to juggle between my little Binh who is still waiting and very much needs mommy, and my little Phu-Phu who gets very anxious when she sees me," Johanne Wagner said. She called her husband, Michael Wagner, her "hero" for giving part of his liver to Phouc.

"Thank you Michael for giving the best present ever to our daughter," Johanne Wagner said. "There's no price to that."

Dr. Levy said surgeons at the Toronto General Hospital removed 10 to 15 per cent of Michael Wagner's liver in a six-hour surgery on Tuesday. They brought the liver across the street to SickKids hospital where surgeons transplanted it into Phouc. That surgery took another seven hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario seeks input on climate change strategy

The Ontario government is looking for public input on its climate change strategy, as it weighs whether to implement a cap-and-trade system or a carbon tax.

A 45-day consultation period will see town hall meetings held across the province and people can give feedback online and through social media.

The government says the

discussion paper will inform the government's decision — expected to come this spring — on which carbon pricing mechanism to adopt.

The Liberal government committed to carbon pricing in 2008 when it signed the Western Climate Initiative with California and Quebec, which have since created a joint cap-and-trade system.

Ontario could adopt a cap-and-trade system that lets the worst polluters buy credits from companies that burn less fossil fuels, or impose a tax on all carbon emissions, including gasoline burned by automobiles.

Environment Minister Glen Murray would not commit to making a carbon pricing plan revenue neutral for the government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City's south end

Fire destroys home, displaces four people

A fire in the city's rural south end has completely destroyed a home and displaced two adults and two children Thursday evening. Ottawa Fire Services responded to 2824 Goodstown Road at 4:42 p.m. and had the fire under control at 5:19 p.m.

JOE LAFARO/METRO

Claudia Cochrane

Police searching for missing 15-year-old girl

Ottawa police said there are concerns for the safety of a missing 15-year-old girl who was last seen in the Draper Avenue area. Claudia Cochrane has been missing since Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. and is described as Caucasian, five feet two inches tall, with long brown hair, brown eyes, fair skin, and a slim build. She has a lower right lip piercing



Claudia Cochrane. POLICE HANDOUT

and a septum piercing. If you have information that could assist investigators, please contact the Missing Persons Unit 613-236-1222, ext. 2355.

JOE LAFARO/METRO



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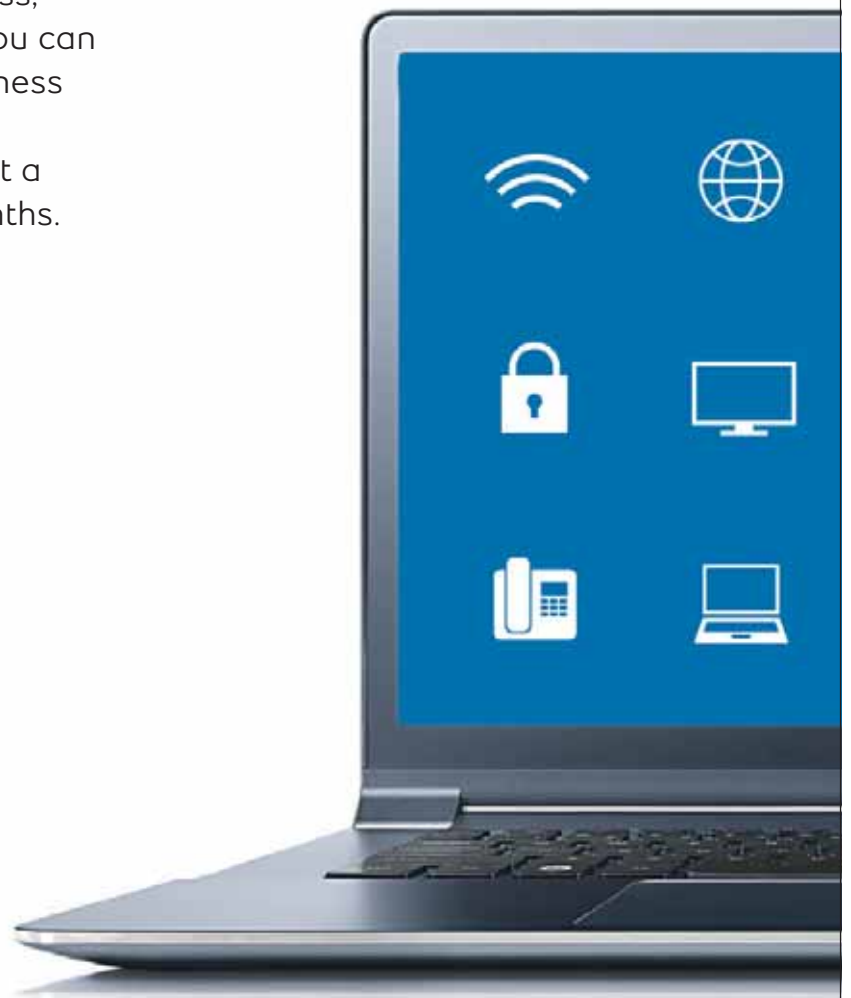
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Iraq. Canadian troops in fourth firefight with ISIL

Canadian troops were recently involved in another exchange of fire with extremists in northern Iraq, a skirmish that comes as the U.S. prepares to expand the scope of its special forces missions throughout the region.

A draft resolution before the U.S. Congress would, if passed, authorize "ground combat operations in limited circumstances" and special forces missions targeting leaders of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). That will put pressure on the Harper govern-

ment as it prepares to renew Canada's commitment to the combat mission against ISIL, defence experts said Thursday.

Capt. Paul Forget, a spokesman for the country's joint operations command, refused to provide details on the latest episode, citing operational security. But Forget did say it was similar to three previous gun battles in which Canadian troops returned fire while visiting the front line during a planning exercise.

There were no Canadian casualties, he said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Citizenship ceremonies

Harper vows to fight court order lifting veil ban

Vowing to appeal a federal court decision that allows citizenship candidates to wear face coverings at swearing-in ceremonies, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says it's "offensive" that someone would want to hide their identity "at

the very moment where they are committing to join the Canadian family."

In a ruling last Friday, the Federal Court of Canada said it is "unlawful" for the government to mandate new citizens to remove the veil while taking the oath because it violates the country's own immigration law, which gives citizenship judges the discretionary power to accommodate religious needs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'A step in the right direction' for jailed Canadian journalist

Egypt. A judge ordered Mohamed Fahmy released on bail pending a retrial on terror-related charges

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the federal government will continue to press for the release of Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy and he is optimistic the case will be resolved.

Fahmy, a Canadian journalist who has spent more than a year in a Cairo prison, was ordered released on bail by an Egyptian court on Thursday pending a retrial on terror-related charges. His case returns to court on Feb. 23.

Fahmy's supporters have been critical of Harper's involvement, imploring him to intervene directly in Fahmy's case with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

Asked Thursday whether he'd spoken directly to el-



Al Jazeera journalist, Canadian-Egyptian Mohamed Fahmy, left, arrives at court in Cairo for his retrial on Thursday. Fahmy and a colleague were ordered released on bail pending their retrial. GETTY IMAGES

Sissi, Harper wouldn't say so directly, but did suggest he'd been in touch with his Egyptian counterpart.

"Our government has for sometime now has been in contact with Egyptian authorities at all levels, including my level," Harper said.

The unexpected development prompted expressions of jubilation from Fahmy's family, although the 40-year-old's legal battles aren't quite over yet.

"We're extremely happy because it's unbelievable to have your brother back after

Quoted

"We still feel that the Canadian government is not applying the sufficient pressure."

Adel Fahmy, Mohamed Fahmy's brother

14 months, especially with such injustice and all the pain he's endured," said Fahmy's brother, Adel Fahmy. "We still want full exoneration, if not, then deportation, and we still want Canada to pressure hard, but it was a step in the right direction."

Fahmy was the only defendant who was ordered to pay an amount equivalent to about \$41,000 for his release on bail, as he was considered a flight risk.

His family paid that amount within hours of the court hearing but were told it would take until Saturday for paperwork to be processed for Fahmy to leave prison.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vaccine poll concerns some experts

A new national poll that mines attitudes toward vaccinations suggests support for these disease prevention tools remains relatively high in Canada.

But if you look beyond the over-arching numbers — nearly nine out of 10 people polled believe vaccination protects against disease — it contains figures that hint that support is less than optimal and potentially softening, said Dr. Kumanan Wilson, a researcher who has studied the phenomenon of vaccine rejection.

"If those numbers drop any lower, we're starting to get into worrisome range," said Wilson.

The online poll was con-

Quoted

"That's a worrisome trend, that the younger people are less supportive than the older people."

Dr. Kumanan Wilson, a researcher who has studied vaccine rejection

ducted by the Angus Reid Institute, a non-profit group that paid for the poll itself. It is based on the views of 1,509 Canadian adults who answered questions between Feb. 9 and 11.

Adults 55 and older who took part in the survey were strongly pro-vaccine and tended

also to support making vaccination mandatory for children to enter school. But younger adults seemed more ambivalent about these tools.

Nine per cent of respondents in the 18-to-34-year-old range described themselves as vaccine opponents and 26 per cent in that age group classified themselves as being on the fence. For respondents aged 35 to 54, those figures were five per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

Those numbers are concerning because it is people in those age groups who are likely to have children and who are deciding whether or not to vaccinate them. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Resignations a sign of turmoil at charity promoting Canada in U.K.

Historian Margaret MacMillan and think-tank adviser Diana Carney are among four people who have quit the board of a charitable foundation that promotes Canada in Britain, amid allegations of meddling by the Canadian High Commission.

MacMillan said it's clear the high commission plans to take over the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom with the aim of promoting Canada's interests as

it sees fit. The organization, a British charity with an endowment of about \$2.3 million, was established in 1975 to support teaching, research and publishing about Canada in the U.K., as well as foster academic ties and student exchanges between Canadian and British universities.

In a December letter to the board, High Commissioner Gordon Campbell outlined plans to exercise the commission's

right to appoint four new board members to help the foundation "do more to inform and educate the British public" about the strength of the Canada-U.K. relationship.

Three of the new members, employees of the high commission, have proposed ousting fellow board member Rachel Killick, a professor emeritus at the University of Leeds. The motion is to be voted on at a board meeting Friday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Flag first met with heckling, caused bitter national brawl

50th birthday. Canada prepares to celebrate now-beloved Maple Leaf flag this Sunday

When Lester B. Pearson unveiled his top pick for a new Canadian flag at a Winnipeg legion hall in July 1964, he was met with boos, hisses and heckling from veterans who accused him of selling out Canada to the “pea soupers.”

The Liberal prime minister had campaigned a year earlier on replacing the Red Ensign — the country’s unofficial flag that paired Canada’s coat of arms and the Union Jack — with a uniquely Canadian emblem as the 1967 centennial approached.

As Canada prepares to celebrate its now-beloved flag’s 50th birthday on Sunday, the national brawl that erupted as Pearson forged ahead with his



A Canadian flag flies in the wind at Granville Island in Vancouver, B.C. Sunday marks 50 years since the now-beloved Maple Leaf flag was adopted. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

plans is a distant memory.

“It was the debate, the issue,” said Conservative Sen. Marjory LeBreton, who worked in opposition leader John Diefenbaker’s office as the battle

raged on. In a recent interview, LeBreton pointed out that Canada’s military veterans had fought under the Red Ensign in two world wars — one of which had only ended 20 years earlier.

George and Ringo as Beatlemania gripped North America.

Some English-Canadians, meantime, accused French-Canadians — the aforementioned “pea soupers” — of being behind the push to cut Canada’s ties to Great Britain even as one Quebec MP, Pierre Trudeau, sniffed that Quebecers didn’t give a “tinker’s damn” about a new flag.

Just a few months after Pearson’s PR disaster in Winnipeg, however, he managed to convince a majority of parliamentarians — including Conservatives — to vote in favour of the red Maple Leaf chosen by his flag selection committee as the new official emblem.

It wasn’t the flag he liked best and had displayed to the angry legion members that summer. The so-called Pearson Pennant, a sprig of three red maple leaves bordered by blue bars, ultimately lost out to the flag Canadians know today.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joan O’Malley



Sewing a piece of Canadian history

Five decades ago, a young Joan O’Malley was summoned by her father one snowy November night to sew Canada’s first Maple Leaf flag.

On the flag’s 50th birthday this Sunday, she’ll be celebrating with as many as 900 other snowbirds at a party in Panama City Beach, Fla. where she’s sure to be belle of the ball.

“I remember thinking it was beautiful, and wondering: ‘Why shouldn’t Canada have its own flag?’” said O’Malley. “The maple leaf was a symbol all Canadians recognized, and that flag was stunning, as far as I was concerned. I loved it.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM’s flag shindig backfired

Lester B. Pearson was so delighted by his pick for a potential new Canadian flag that the Liberal prime minister summoned some journalists to 24 Sussex Drive in the summer of 1964 to show it off.

“He was like a boy with a new bicycle,” Toronto Telegram reporter Ron Collister is quoted as saying in the 1968 book *Assignment Ottawa* by colleague Peter Dempson.

About a dozen reporters were invited to enjoy a cup of tea with Pearson at 24 Sussex in July ’64 and watch him unfurl his choice for the new flag, dubbed the Pearson Pennant.

As the reporters left, however, Pearson told them there was a catch to the visit — any stories about his pick for the design would have to be attributed to a “reliable source,” not the prime minister himself.



Of the final three flag designs considered in 1964 to replace Canada’s red ensign, this one was prime minister Lester B. Pearson’s favourite. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dempson’s book recalls how Toronto Star Weekly reporter Walter Stewart, a relative newcomer to the press gallery, balked, uncomfortable with the idea of writing a positive story about Pearson’s flag design without naming the source.

He subsequently identified Pearson as the source of the

story and wrote of the visit to 24 Sussex, infuriating the prime minister to such an extent that instructions were issued to staff to deny Stewart any information in the future.

Other members of the press who weren’t invited to the flag shindig were miffed that the prime minister had played favourites. THE CANADIAN PRESS

How to handle a flag

While there are no laws dictating how to fly or use the Canadian flag, protocols have developed over the years. Here are some guidelines about the Maple Leaf from Canadian Heritage:

1. The flag should “be displayed only in a manner befitting this important national symbol; it should not

be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position inferior to any other flag.”

2. It should not be used as a table cloth or seat cover, or “as a barrier on a dais or platform.”

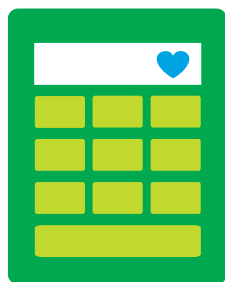
3. Nothing should be pinned to or sewn onto the flag. It should not be signed or marked in any way.

4. The flag should not touch the ground.

5. “When the national flag of Canada is raised or lowered, or when it is carried past in a parade or review, all present should face the flag, men should remove their hats and all should remain silent.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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New peace deal set for Ukraine

Negotiations.

Ceasefire effective starting 5 p.m. EST Saturday with special status for rebel regions

Guns will fall silent, heavy weapons will pull back from the front, and Ukraine will trade a broad autonomy for the east for control of the Russian border by the end of the year under a peace deal hammered out Thursday in all-night negotiations between Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany.

The deal was full of potential pitfalls, however, that could derail its implementation. In announcing the plan, Russia and Ukraine disagreed over what exactly they had agreed to in marathon 16-hour talks, including the status of a key town under rebel siege.

Russian President Vladimir

Putin told reporters that the agreement envisages a ceasefire that will be effective starting from the start of the day Sunday (5 p.m. EST Saturday) as well as a special status for the rebel regions, provisions on border controls and humanitarian issues.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said there was no agreement on any autonomy for eastern Ukraine, a long-time demand of Russia that wants it to maintain leverage over its neighbour and prevent it from joining NATO.

However, the deal requires Ukrainian parliament to give wide powers to the eastern regions as a condition for restoring Ukraine's full control over the border — a provision certain to trigger heated political debate in Ukraine.

The agreement is a compromise allowing both Russia and Ukraine to claim victory, but it's full of potential pitfalls that may derail it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Women mourn deaths of three shot over parking spaces

Female mourners gather for the funerals of Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23; his 21-year-old wife of less than two months, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha; and her 19-year-old sister, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, at the Method Road Soccer Complex Thursday, on the North Carolina State campus in Raleigh, N.C. The three were shot to death Tuesday, in what police described as a long-standing argument over parking spaces at the condominium complex where Barakat had lived for more than a year. COREY LOWENSTEIN/THE NEWS & OBSERVER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Republicans vow to toughen Obama's request

U.S. congressional Republicans vowed Thursday to toughen President Barack Obama's day-old legislation to authorize military force against fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, as House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi warned, "It's going to be hard" to find common ground.

Nothing underscored the yawning divide between the two parties more than Obama's request to bar "enduring offensive combat

operations" from the struggle against terrorists who have seized territory in Syria and Iraq and beheaded hostages.

The Republican leader of the House, Speaker John Boehner, said disapprovingly that Obama's proposal would "tie his hands even further" than current law. But Pelosi, recalling the long, difficult war in Iraq, said the president "has to be commended" for proposing to limit his own power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ecology. Oceans full of plastic from landfills

Around eight million metric tonnes of shopping bags, bottles, food wrappers, toys and other plastic waste drifted into the world's oceans in a single year, says a new study that warns the amount could double over the next decade.

The unique research, published Thursday in the journal *Science*, suggests that between 4.8 million and 12.7 million metric tonnes of plastic entered the oceans in 2010 from

people living within 50 kilometres of coastlines in 192 countries.

In the same year, those countries generated a total of 275 million metric tons of plastic waste, with much of it coming from mismanaged landfills and litter.

China was by far the biggest generator of mismanaged plastic waste, with several other East Asian countries and the United States making up the top 20 offenders. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pakistan, Afghanistan

12 Taliban involved in deadly school attack

Pakistan announced the arrest of 12 members of the Pakistani Taliban militant group over their alleged involvement in a deadly attack on a Pakistani school, an army spokesman said Thursday.

Another nine members of what is believed to be a 27-member cell have already been killed, Maj. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa told a media briefing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United States

Mother pleads guilty to killing six newborns

A U.S. mother pleaded guilty Thursday to killing six of her newborns and storing their bodies in the garage, bringing a case prosecutors called uniquely heinous closer to resolution. Megan Huntzman, 39, faces up to life in prison when she's sentenced April 20.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Facebook to let users pick 'legacy contact'

Social media. With hundreds of thousands making memorial requests for deceased loved ones, company's latest move gives users more choice

The world's biggest online social network said Thursday that it will now let users pick someone who can manage their accounts after they die. Previously, the accounts were "memorialized" after death, or locked so that no one could log in.

But Facebook says its users wanted more choice. Beginning in the U.S., Facebook users can now pick a "legacy contact" to post on their pages after they die, respond to new friend requests and update their profile picture and cover

Online memorial

To memorialize a Facebook account, a loved one would provide proof of the person's death, such as an obituary.

- **Search result management.** Once notified, Facebook will work to ensure that a deceased user no longer shows up in searches or as a suggested friend.

- **Memorialized accounts.** Facebook wouldn't confirm how many accounts have been memorialized on the site boasting more than 1.4 billion users, but company product manager Vanessa Callison-Burch said they receive requests from hundreds of thousands of loved ones to do so.

photo. Users can also have their accounts deleted after their death, which was not possible before.

If you want someone to manage your account after you die, click on the upside-down triangle on the top right corner of your page and find "security settings."

For U.S. users there will be an option to edit your legacy contact, who must be a Facebook user. But you

don't have to pick someone else to manage your account.

You can also check a box to permanently delete your account when you die.

The person you decide will manage your Facebook account won't be notified of your choice until your Facebook account is memorialized. But you can choose to send them a message right away. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Kellogg's suffers fourth-quarter sales decline

Kellogg's Special K cereal boxes are displayed on a grocery store shelf in Omaha, Neb. The cereal brand can't shake its outdated image among weight watchers; Kellogg's said Thursday its U.S. cereal unit suffered another sales decline in its last quarter, hurt by the performance of its top moneymaker. CEO John Bryant said people are no longer focused on holding back calories and want foods that make them feel good. **NATI HARNIK, FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Oil prices

Cenovus to cut jobs amid decline

A steep drop in oil prices has led oilsands producer Cenovus Energy to consider cutting 15 per cent of its labour, amounting to 800 jobs. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute



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Natural gas: \$2.713 (-8.4¢)
Dow Jones: 17,972.38 (+110.24)

Media

Sun News to shut network down for good on Friday

Sun News Network is about to sign off, permanently. CBC News has learned that the cable news television channel will shut down early tomorrow.

The network began broadcasting in 2011, launching a right-of-centre programming schedule. Almost 200 people are employed at Sun News.

CBC NEWS

Korean Air heiress gets a year in jail over 'nut rage'



Cho Hyun-ah AHN YOUNG-JOON, FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An onboard tantrum dubbed "nut rage" culminated Thursday in a one-year prison sentence for Korean Air heiress Cho Hyun-ah, a humiliating rebuke that only partially quelled public outrage at the excesses of South Korea's business elite.

Cho, the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, achieved worldwide notoriety after she ordered the chief flight attendant off a Dec. 5 flight, forcing it to return to the gate at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

Head of cabin service at the time of the incident, Cho

was angered she had been offered macadamia nuts in a bag instead of on a dish. A heated and physical confrontation with members of the crew in first class ensued.

A Seoul court said Cho, 40, was guilty of forcing a flight to change its route, obstructing the flight's captain in the performance of his duties, forcing a crew member off a plane and assaulting a crew member. It found her not guilty of interfering with a transport ministry investigation into the incident. Cho pleaded not guilty and prosecutors had called for

three years in prison.

Cho, in custody since Dec. 30, wiped away tears with a tissue as a letter expressing her remorse was read to the court by head judge Oh Seong-woo.

The chief judge said the court took the totality of Cho's actions into account, but also recognized she showed remorse for what she did.

Even if the ruling is appealed, Cho faces a year in prison as upper court decisions can take more than a year to resolve.

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VOICES

DON'T WORRY, COUPLES HAVE LAME VALENTINE'S DAYS, TOO



THE KOHLER REPORT

By Rebecca Kohler

Are you going to be alone for Valentine's Day? Stop crying! You have options. One avenue is to book yourself a ticket to Portland, Ore., like, right now, and get yourself to Cuddle Con: The Cuddle Convention! The other is to count your blessings for being single and avoiding what will probably be a disappointment for 75 per cent of the coupled population. Those couples will receive stale chocolates or sit through awkward conversationless dinners for two — if they actually do anything at all.

First let's talk about this cuddling convention. Held at the Bossanova Ballroom in Portland, and costing \$25 a ticket, Cuddle Con is a 12-hour event featuring a vast array of cuddle-related activities: Consent 101, "a crash course on Cuddle Con's culture of consent," Poetry For Passion Competition, dance classes, AcroYoga lessons and, finally, a 2.5-hour group snuggle that will be followed by a Valentine's Day Dance. Maybe you can dance with your co-cuddler? Sound fun?

Okay, you're still crying. Maybe the idea of paying someone to cuddle you is depressing. Or maybe cuddling with a stranger comes with an ick factor (it does for me: I'm a germo-

phobe and it's measles season)! But the good news is that Cuddle Con's very existence is proof you are not alone in being alone. In fact, cuddling companies have been popping up all over the place — there's one in Vancouver, Montreal and rumour has it, others are on their way to Toronto and Edmonton.

People don't open businesses to sell things that other people don't need. Is there a store, for instance, that sells a kick in the teeth? No. People need hugs, so you are not alone.

It's not surprising that Cuddle-Con is on V-Day, as that's a day when a lot of people become uncomfortably aware that they have no one to hug. But if you're feeling "uncomfortably aware" of anything, again, I promise you, you're not alone.

Valentine's Day puts a spotlight on everyone's love life. Sure, it makes a single person wonder things like, "Why am I alone? Is something wrong with me? Who will fix my sink?" etc. But the spotlight doesn't discriminate. Try being in a mediocre relationship on the 14th. It's like this giant pale, sickly heart comes into your house to remind you it's dying.

It wasn't until my early 20s that I finally had a boyfriend on the big day. I was so excited. I pictured one of those heart-shaped boxes of chocolate and a card that said things like "I love you." Instead, my boyfriend showed up an

Don't be jealous

My boyfriend showed up an hour late with a wilted rose and proceeded to complain for the rest of the night about how expensive it was.

hour late with a wilted rose and proceeded to complain for the rest of the night about how expensive it was,

"Ten bucks for a rose? WTF?"

I don't think I've ever received a Valentine's Day present that really hit the love spot. I once received an egg poacher (?). I had mixed feelings upon being gifted a cigarette case; I mean, yeah, I smoked at the time, so I guess it was thoughtful but it kind of felt like, "Here's a cigarette case. I love you, but I also hope you die one day."

I think the day died for me in 2010. I was leaving for an overnight trip on the morning of February 14th and my boyfriend gave me a card and said, "Don't open it until you're on the train." I took this to mean it was meaty, or at least that I'd enjoy it.

So I waited diligently and as the train pulled out of the station, I opened the card and

all it said was, "I hope you have a nice day." Wow. No "love." No "so glad I met you." Not even an "xo." I proceeded to have the worst day.

To my surprise that man was not super-committed to like, our relationship, and I spent Valentine's Day fixing and re-fixing my tear-smudged makeup.

I have a pretty nice boyfriend now. We both think V-Day is kind of dumb, and Valentine's Day is easier now that we keep expectations low. We'll probably just exchange cards and luckily, this one knows how to write more than one sentence. Will we cuddle? Maybe a little. But we might also get into a fight about who left the space heater on overnight and spend the rest of the day being passive aggressive with each other because that's what relationships are all about. That and love.

If you're single and you go to Cuddle Con, you might get more hugs than me on the 14th. If you don't, you might stay in, under a blanket, eating delicious snacks, binge-watching your favourite show on Netflix. That would be a way nicer day than my Valentine's 2009. Trust me. |

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From Jon Stewart's departure to Kanye West's outburst, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



SAY IT AIN'T SO

Fans of late-night news satire, still mourning the recent end of The Colbert Report, are reeling this week from the announcement that Jon Stewart will be leaving The Daily Show. The comedy legend has been hosting the show — and putting Fox News pundits in their place — for 16 years.



MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T PLAY POKER WITH YOUR DOG

File under pet owners already know this: A new study says that dogs are able to tell the difference between happy and angry human facial expressions. Various breeds were trained to touch either a happy face or a sad face for a treat.



A GHASTLY MISTAKE

A Romanian diplomat's secret spreadsheet describing guests at an upcoming dinner party as "undesirable" and "ghastly," was accidentally mailed out with the invitations. Recognizing that no amount of diplomacy was going to fix this one, the Foreign Ministry fired him.



HEARTBEATS

Just in time for Valentines Day, researchers at Simon Fraser University say they've created beating heart cells made from skin and blood tissue. The researchers hope the discovery could eventually be used to replace dead or damaged heart tissue in heart attack patients.



OH YEEZUS...

Hey, Kanye, I'm-a say something. Yes, the Grammys, much like other social institutions, have institutionalized racism. Yes, when white hip-hop artists who are literally pale imitations of their more talented black counterparts are heralded as the best the genre has to offer, racism probably has something to do with it. But your fight is not with Beck, who, much like yourself and Beyoncé, is very skilled. Much respect to all the musical artists out there doing their thing.



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The danger of super-sexy roles

Analysis. Landing the lead in *50 Shades of Grey* could make or break the career of Dakota Johnson — just ask Elizabeth Berkley

Jennifer Lawrence once showed me a cellphone snap of herself dressed in a fierce black leather outfit.

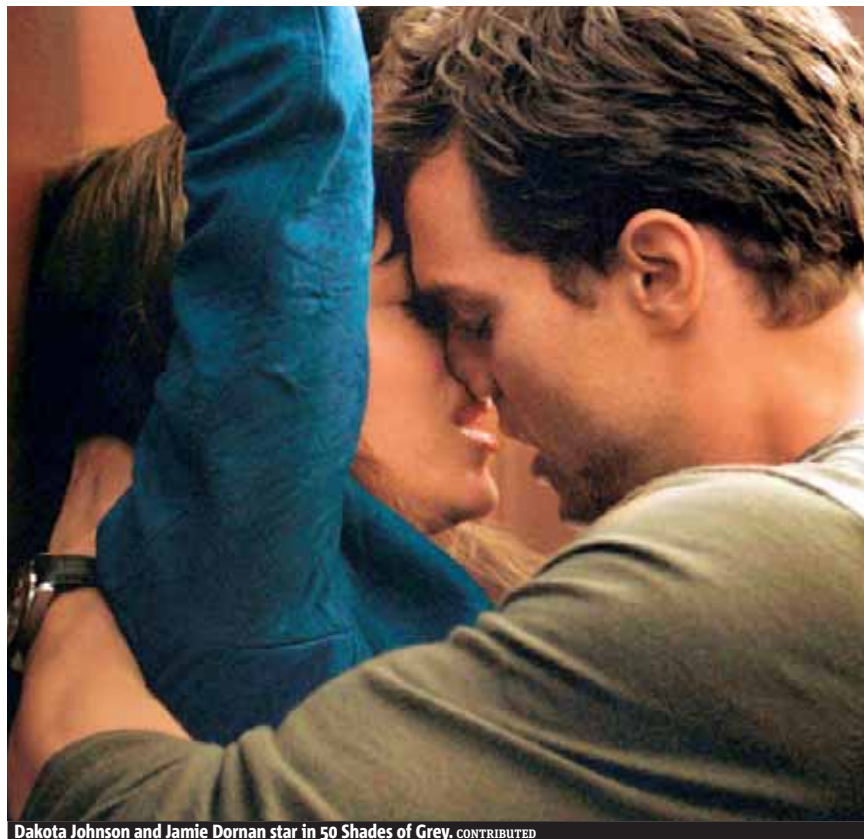
She was hot off the success of her Oscar-nominated work in *Winter's Bone* and used the photo as part of her audition for a role that every actress of a certain age in Hollywood clamoured for in 2010.

She didn't get the part of Lisbeth Salander, the pierced and inked computer hacker star of David Fincher's remake of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* — the producers thought she was too tall. In the end, Rooney Mara got it, but not before auditioning five times and beating out better-known hopefuls like Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Anne Hathaway.

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo was 2011's big literary adaptation, ripe with star-making possibilities and lucrative franchise potential. It didn't pan out that way, but Hollywood hasn't given up on bringing bestsellers to the screen.

This week there are high hopes for *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Calling the story of college graduate Anastasia Steele and BDSM enthusiast Christian Grey a "literary" adaptation might be a stretch, but with 100 million books sold (including parts two and three) there are great expectations.

So, actors should be



Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan star in *50 Shades of Grey*. CONTRIBUTED

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE



crawling over one another to star in the film, right? Think again. Unlike *Dragon Tattoo*, young Hollywood ingenues have not been whipping themselves into a frenzy over *Fifty Shades*.

Shaileene Woodley had no qualms about performing the film's explicit bondage scenes, but was already tied up making the *Divergent* movies.

Emma Watson did have qualms. "Who here actually thinks I would do *Fifty Shades of Grey* as a movie?" she wrote on Twitter.

In the end, Dakota Johnson, better known as the daughter of Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith than for her work on the cancelled sitcom *Ben and Kate*, won the role. While it might make her a star, there are dangers involved with a project like this. Just ask Elizabeth Berkley.

Berkley was a wholesome teen model and star of the sitcom *Saved by the*

Richard's ratings

50 Shades of Grey

.....

Kingsman: The Secret Service

.....

The Last Five Years

.....

What We Do In The Shadows

.....

Bell when a role in Paul Verhoeven's 1995 sexploitation flick *Showgirls* left her career in tatters.

As the untested star who bared her soul and body in a big-budget film, she took the hit for the film's failure.

Almost 20 years later, she was still emotional about the backlash she suffered. After performing an erotic dance on *Dancing with the Stars*, she tearfully said, "it reconnected me to when I was just a young woman and took a risk creatively and did *Showgirls*. With that came a lot of doors being slammed in my face."

Will Johnson be the next Berkley?

According to the ticket-selling site Fandango Fifty, *Shades of Grey* is the fastest selling R-rated title ever, so Dakota may yet be spared a tearful breakdown in *Dancing with the Stars* in 2035.

2 SCENE



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Novelists who crack the whip on set

E.L. James wasn't willing to let others dominate the *Fifty Shades of Grey* film. From the start of the development process, reports swirled about the author's request for an unusual amount of creative control over the movie version of her erotic bestseller. But she's not the only writer who's big on creative control. Here are five other authors who have been heavily involved in the film adaptations of their works. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter series

You could say Rowling had a magical contract with Warner Bros. for the film adaptation of her boy wizard series. She not only had a say in principal casting as well as the screenplays, she also had input on where the films were shot and got a producer credit. As Rowling told the *Times U.K.* in June 2000, she had "a huge amount of influence" in the development process.



J. K. Rowling

Cheryl Strayed, Wild

As Montreal director Jean-Marc Vallée told *The Canadian Press*, Strayed "became part of the team" while her memoir got the Hollywood treatment. She read various versions of the script and was an unofficial technical adviser as Vallée depicted her soul-seeking journey on the Pacific Crest Trail. Laura Dern, an Oscar nominee for playing Strayed's mother, said she bonded with the author on set and the two have since vacationed together with their families.

Reese Witherspoon and Cheryl Strayed



Suzanne Collins, Hunger Games trilogy; Gillian Flynn, Gone Girl

Collins co-wrote the screenplay for the first film in her dystopian adventure series and earned a producing credit for all three movies to be released so far. Meanwhile, Flynn was the lone screenwriter on the big-screen remake of her psychological thriller, which has earned star Rosamund Pike an Oscar nomination.



Suzanne Collins

Stephen Chbosky, The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Chbosky went a step further than Collins and Flynn, not only writing the screenplay for his film but also directing it. It's perhaps understandable why he'd want to have full control over the adaptation of the hit 1999 coming-of-age novel. After all, the story of a shy and troubled teen who bonds with an eclectic group of seniors in high school is autobiographical.



Stephen Chbosky

Stephenie Meyer, Twilight series

Meyer reportedly had a close relationship with director Catherine Hardwicke during the initial stages of bringing her vampire saga to the screen. Meyer also visited the set, got a producer credit and a cameo in the first film, and was consulted on the story. According to *Entertainment Weekly*, Meyer was guaranteed "that the film would be true to her vision."

Stephenie Meyer



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Will you spend V-Day at Fifty Shades, or run the other way?

Opening night. Moms and other diehard fans hope to bond over the film with their significant others — but some men are tied up elsewhere



Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson star in *Fifty Shades of Grey*. GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It's the most buzzed-about film in the mommy world in a long time."

Fifty Shades fan Lyss Stern

mania over the books. Come Feb. 13, Stern will be handing out treats to her buddies when they take their seats in a Manhattan theatre. She'll include special sweets and other, er, stuff.

"There will be some fun toys, of course," she promised. "It's the most buzzed-about film in the mommy world in a long time. It's a Sex and the City kind of excitement. We know it's not going to win an Oscar, but we also know it's going to be fun."

Oscar Mendizabal, 30, an Internet technology specialist in Los Angeles, is warming up to his Fifty movie date with his wife of nearly 12 years. They'll be joined by her brother and his girlfriend. He's given up on his plan to sneak into American Sniper. "At the end of the day," Mendizabal said, "I'm a sucker for love."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brittany Brown wouldn't miss the opening of the *Fifty Shades of Grey* movie for anything. She has read and re-read all three books, uses the app, follows FSOG role play on Twitter and set her DVR to record trailers for the highly anticipated Valentine's weekend release.

But ditching her boyfriend for her gal gang of superfans was problematic. "Feb. 14 is actually his birthday. He'll go out with his guy friends and I'll see FSOG with my friends. Later that evening we'll all meet up to party. We'll celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday as a couple," said Brown, a 22-year-old public relations intern in Silver Spring, Md.

Three years in the waiting, the opening of the erotic romance on sweethearts' weekend will be a breathless affair

for Fifty diehards everywhere.

Some will have husbands in tow. Some already have tickets. And those book groups of mommies that helped propel the bondage story to more than 100 million copies sold? They'll be crowding theatres, too.

Lyss Stern in New York will be one of them with 50 friends, including some very expectant ones. "Hopefully nobody will go into labour," she laughed.

Stern, 40, throws mom-centric social events for a living and once feted Fifty writer E.L. James at the height of

'He's the nicest serial killer you'll ever meet'

Film. Dark comedy sees Ryan Reynolds walk fine line between eerie and endearing

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

If you're asking, Ryan Reynolds is a dog person.

"But I'm only a dog person because they can be controlled," he tells us.

"Cats hate me."

That's a light way to start talking about his new film, *The Voices*, in which he plays Jerry, a disturbed Midwesterner who's off his meds, and as such, converses with his dog and his cat (both voiced by him). Soon enough, and purely by accident, he's racked up a body count. Combining dark comedy with horror and a serious side is a challenge both for him and his director, Marjane Satrapi, who herself is changing gears from the Iran-set *Persepolis* and *Chicken with Plums* to stake a bloody American debut.



Ryan Reynolds says he attempted to create a three-dimensional character on the set of *The Voices*, rather than simply portraying a menacing, scary psychopath. HANDOUT

You had to chase this one down and talk with Satrapi about casting you. How did you convince her?

I knew there were two other actors who had their hands up for it, who I would argue are much more critically acclaimed than I am. So I really had to get my

s— together. I met with Marjane and gave her my take on the guy. One of the things I said was: If there's even one look of menace on Jerry's face, we lose the audience. She seemed to really latch onto that idea, that we have to trust him, we have to follow him and ostensibly

care for him. Somehow she, I don't know, found me creepy enough to do the role.

What do you think she brings to this project that other directors might not have?

She brings a European sensibility, even though she does

Just do it

"One of the things Marjane and I clicked over was neither of us likes to rehearse. That was nice. Because I always think, just go be it. If I'm a good enough actor I can show up to set ready. We clicked on this 'f— rehearsal' thing. We just dove right in. I remember on *Buried* I was asked to rehearse for two weeks. I just said, "On what? Lying down on a coffee table in a room? Can we just shoot the f—ing thing? I don't want to pretend I'm in a coffin, doing some Marcel Marceau bit. Let's just go!"

not originate from Europe. And she brings a sense of unending whimsy to a subject matter that is a little intense. As I've gotten older — I wish I'd learned this earlier — but films are all about the director. It's their medium.

There's something shockingly sweet-natured about the film. For one thing, the actual gore tends to be off-screen or obscured in the shots.

That's funny — some people find it gory. I think it's offset by Jerry's innocence and arrested development. He was traumatized at 10 or 11 years old, and he's still 10 or 11 years old when we meet him. It's also offset by the fact that there's this asexuality to him. That's

important, especially since we're dealing with women in this movie. If there was a sexual component, the movie would be wholly unpleasant in every way shape or form, and it would never see the light of day. He's the nicest serial killer you'll ever meet.

Jerry's definitely not a sexual predator.

Marjane did certain things, like when Anna Kendrick's character (a co-worker with a crush on him) kisses Jerry. Anna's tiny and I'm not, and she had us do it near a staircase, so she could have Anna up high, so she'd be in control. She pulls Jerry in for a kiss instead of Jerry coming to her.

Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. RottenTomatoes.com

Ratings: Certified Fresh: 🍅 Fresh: 🍅 Rotten: 🍅

Audience response: 🍅 Audience anticipation for the film: +

Mystery & Suspense



Kingsman: The Secret Service

Director. Matthew Vaughn

Stars. Colin Firth, Michael Caine

Based upon the acclaimed comic book and directed by Matthew Vaughn (*Kick Ass*, *X-Men First Class*), *Kingsman: The Secret Service* tells the story of a super-secret spy organization that recruits an unrefined but promising street kid into the agency's ultra-competitive training program just as a global threat emerges from a twisted tech genius.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: Audience:

🍅 77% 🍅 88%

Romance



Fifty Shades of Grey

Director. Sam Taylor-Johnson

Stars. Jamie Dornan, Dakota Johnson

E.L. James' kinky bestseller gets the big-screen treatment with this Universal Pictures/Focus Features co-production. The steamy tale details a masochistic relationship between a college student and a businessman, whose desires for extreme intimacy stem from secrets in his past.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: Audience:

🍅 42% + 87%

Comedy



Jupiter Ascending

Director. Andy Wachowski, Lana Wachowski

Stars. Mila Kunis, Channing Tatum

From the streets of Chicago to the far-flung galaxies whirling through space, *Jupiter Ascending* tells the story of Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis), who was born under a night sky, with signs predicting she was destined for great things.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: Audience:

🍅 23% 🍅 49%

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Ed Burns rolls with indie-scene punches

Interview. Independent film has changed top-to-bottom since filmmaker-actor broke into it

MATT PRIGGE

Metro in New York City

Twenty years ago, Edward Burns was an overnight success story.

He was a nobody, able to get his tiny film, *The Brothers McMullen*, into Sundance, where it won the Grand Jury Prize and became an indie box-office juggernaut.

But despite some flashy acting gigs (including *Saving Private Ryan*), Burns has stayed small, eking out a career in a low-budget industry that, since he started, has changed top-to-bottom.

He chronicles his life in this evolving world in his new book, *Independent Ed*, which doubles as a handbook for aspiring filmmakers who need to stay afloat in an ever-mutating business.

Burns, whose show *Public Morals* will premiere on TNT in June, talked to Metro about what he's learned.

Do you miss film?

You know, I used to, when I first made the switch over to digital. Like a lot of other indie filmmakers, I did it more out of necessity, in that you could make films more inexpensively than you could with film. You missed not only the look, but the process of shooting with film, and getting your dailies and then later on seeing that film projected. But I have to admit, now that digital technology has improved so dramatically and the workflow has made certain things about production a lot easier, made it a lot more cost-efficient and sped up the editing process a little bit, I've fully embraced digital and no longer miss film.

The ease of digital

The technology has eliminated that barrier to entry for anyone who wants to make a film. You don't even need a



Edward Burns has released a new book called *Independent Ed*. GETTY

Book



In *Independent Ed*, Burns says it's not enough to say you have a new film: You need another story to go along with that. He cites making 2007's *Purple Violets*, the first film to ever debut on iTunes, as an example. "That has to come organically to you," he says. "You've got to sit down with your film and look at your circumstances of however you got it made, and whatever your hook is you have to recognize that that has to be part of the sales pitch. It has to be part of the narrative of your film. But there's no strategy for you to take. It's just a matter of looking at your story and finding an angle to generate a little more press or a little more interest in the film."

prefer the audience see their film in the theater, projected with the greatest picture quality and the greatest sound. But that's not a reality anymore. If you look at attendance for these movies they're down dramatically. Most people prefer to stay home and watch these films on their flat-screen TVs. It is, I guess, a lesser experience. But I've still to this day never seen *The Godfather I and II* in the movie theater. And they are still my favorite two films. And I saw them on an 18 inch black-and-white TV in my college dorm room on an old VHS copy, pan-and-scan. And it still blew me away. It wasn't the perfect way to see the film, but great storytelling can still work in terrible conditions. Everyone says the best way to listen to an album is on LP — that's where the sound quality is. But most of us listen to our music these days through little earbuds. It's a lesser experience, but that's where we are now.

professional cinematographer anymore. That was a big challenge on *The Brothers McMullen*: How do we find someone who knew how to shoot film? Today you can pick up a Canon 5D and just figure it out as you go.

How digital filmmaking inspires sincerity

Any kid who says, "I'm just going to grab a camera and start making a movie" is probably only going to be doing it for one reason: They love it. They have a story to tell and they want to do this thing. There will be a handful who do it because they want to become rich and famous, but I'm thinking the vast majority do it because they love movies and they think they have a story to tell. I wouldn't discourage that.

Getting attention

The great challenge now, given there are so many titles out there, is how do you monetize these films? An indie band, after their album is made, they're going to spend a year and a half on the road, playing in bars, trying to move their CD. That same tenacity is required of the indie filmmaker. Your work tour has to be hitting every film festival that will have you, and you'll be using social media and finding other digital distribution outlets as a way to build that audience. Very few guys

have the overnight success that, let's say, I had with *The Brothers McMullen*. But that doesn't mean you can't find some success if you're willing to put in the long haul. There are countless examples of people doing just that, who found their rich audience online and made three or four or five feature films — films you've never heard of, but they have their fans. And they're somehow figuring out how to make yet another movie.

The future

The other thing that's going to be fascinating is all these things that didn't exist five, six, seven years ago — Twitter, Instagram. What is going to help the young filmmaker get his film out to the public in the next five years? There's going to be a new platform. If we could imagine it, we'd be very wealthy guys. When I released *Purple Violets* on iTunes, no one was doing that at the time. No one thought iTunes was a viable place to show films. And then later there was VOD. And now you're seeing Netflix is making films, and Amazon Prime. A young filmmaker has to keep an eye on where this is going and take some chances, try to be at the forefront of it.

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Falling in love with The Last Five Years

Dream roles. As an aspiring musical theatre actor, Jeremy Jordan thought this cult work by Jason Robert Brown was the cat's pyjamas; now, he's starring in the film

ie adaptation of Brown's cultishly adored song cycle about a young couple's falling in and out of love.

"It was fun because I knew it so well and I felt like I really connected to it when I first heard it and I still connected to it," Jordan said. "I got to share that love and connection with everybody else."

Like everyone starting out in musical theatre, Jeremy Jordan had a song from The Last Five Years ready to go in his back pocket.

Jordan, the Tony Award-nominated star of Newsies: The Musical and TV's Smash, had fallen in love with the Jason Robert Brown musical when it premiered in 2002 and added one of its tunes to his audition list.

"It was like the bar. It was the apex. It was like the thing you strived for," he recalled. "If you could do justice to a song from The Last Five Years, then you were in good shape as a musical theatre actor."

Now Jordan has upped his game. He's gone from having one of its songs down pat to starring in the first-ever mov-

Jordan co-stars alongside Anna Kendrick in the 95-minute film, which has been adapted and directed by Richard LaGravenese and hits theatres and video on demand Friday after making its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

It's the five-year love affair — told almost entirely in song — of aspiring actress Cathy and budding novelist Jamie, one on the rise and the other finding the going frustrating in mid-1990s New York.

Brown structured the story with a twist: Jamie starts at the beginning of the relationship and alternates songs with Cathy as he moves to the crushing end, while Cathy begins at the end and moves in reverse chronological order to the couple's sunny origin.

Quote

"It was like the bar. It was the apex. It was like the thing you strived for. If you could do justice to a song from The Last Five Years, then you were in good shape as a musical theatre actor."

Jeremy Jordan

While Brown had been approached about turning the musical into a film for years, no proposal really excited him until he spoke with LaGravenese, the writer and director of Beautiful Creatures and P.S. I Love You.

"I always thought it might make a nice movie, but I never really had a sense of what that movie was supposed to look like or anything like that," said Brown, who has a cameo as an audition pianist. "I'm very proud of it."

LaGravenese added some quirky, surreal touches and dance numbers to the heartbreaking naturalism of Brown's songs, and he made it modern with the use of Skype and cellphones. LaGravenese also pulled the theatrical piece into the world of film

by having the young lovers in the same scene, even if only one was singing.

It was filmed over 2 1/2 weeks in New York during the sweltering summer of 2013 and maintained its intimacy by having 90 per cent of it sung live. Prerecording the songs and then lip-synching them for cameras weeks later wasn't an option.

"You write songs about moments that are special, that are particular, that are meaningful and that are impactful. Every moment in the film is one of those moments," said Jordan, who, during the song Moving Too Fast, actually bikes through the city while singing. (The soundtrack is available for download.)

Things got a little more

real than the crew bargained for during a lunch break on the last week of filming when a thief opened the unlocked costume truck and made off with most of Jordan's clothes, including four pairs of expensive jeans cut specifically for Jordan.

"I was like, 'What are you going to do with a bunch of dude's clothes that are sized specifically to Jeremy Jordan's butt?'" he said, laughing. "I guess you have to find some very specific clients for that."

The finished film is something that Brown admits is still startling, even though the musical is done hundreds of times across the globe every year. His small, semi-autobiographical story is now on a huge screen, being sung by stars with enormous faces. "That part was an incredible head trip," Brown said, laughing. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Jeremy Jordan
GETTY IMAGES

Kendrick's singing chops didn't surprise insiders

Musical roles. Anna co-stars in The Last Five Years, but her vocal prowess isn't news to those who've seen Into the Woods or Pitch Perfect

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Ever since Anna Kendrick crooned the catchy single Cups in 2012's sleeper hit Pitch Perfect, she's become Hollywood's hottest rising singing star — subsequently starting in such big-screen musicals as Into the Woods and the upcoming Pitch Perfect 2.

The petite actor's unlikely vocal success may astonish some moviegoers, but it certainly didn't catch filmmaker Richard LaGravenese by surprise. "We cast her before Pitch came out, so we were really lucky," admitted the director of the indie musical The Last Five Years.

Based on the off-Broadway stage play by Jason Robert



Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan co-star in The Last Five Years. CONTRIBUTED

Brown, LaGravenese laughs in hindsight that it was a "gamble" to cast Kendrick at the time. "The deal with Jason was I would pick the actor because I needed actors who would be able to act and then he would tell me if they could sing," reflected LaGravenese with a laugh. "She was the first and only (she) was perfect."

The film follows the passionate relationship between a struggling New York-based actress (Kendrick) and her quick-rising novelist boyfriend (Jeremy Jordan of TV's Smash) as they manoeuvre the ups,

downs and possible demise of their romance.

"(Love stories) are difficult," admitted LaGravenese, who earned his reputation writing such lovesick stories as 2011's Water For Elephants and P.S. I Love You.

"The late (filmmaker) Sydney Pollack once said to me, 'Love stories are great up until they fall in love. Then after that, what do you do?' So my favourite love stories are the ones where people don't wind up together because, to me, relationships are really about finding out who you are."

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Chappie opens in theatres March 6. CONTRIBUTED

Jackman getting back to his Aussie roots in new role

Interview. Actor says using his native accent while filming Chappie was 'great but weird'

It's not that often that Hugh Jackman gets a role speaking in his native Australian, so while working on the upcoming sci-fi thriller Chappie he had to get reacquainted with the dialect.

The 46-year-old Tony Award winner said in an interview earlier this week that using his own accent "was great but weird."

"I had to practice it because it was way stronger than my natural accent," Jackman said.

Jackman also admits brushing up on some of the Australian slang that writer-director Neill Blomkamp wrote for the part.

"He used a lot of phrases, and I had to end up Googling the slang," Jackman said. "Neill was coming up with

some really cool sayings ... I was trying to think of more, so I ended up Googling some of them."

Chappie, which opens in theatres on March 6, tells the story of a fallen police robot that is reprogrammed to think and feel for itself. Jackman said he had fun playing the film's antagonist, an engineer strongly opposed to artificial intelligence.

"We got to create this character that did stretch it a bit. We had a lot of fun with him from the look, his mannerism, the way he talked. At the same time, it was very much based in a reality that was needed for the movie in terms of the voice of caution," Jackman said.

Blomkamp is known for

his sci-fi thrillers District 9 and Elysium.

The last time Jackman appeared in a film using his native accent was The Australian in 2008, opposite Nicole Kidman.

He did lend his voice to the 2012 animated film Rise of the Guardians.

Jackman, who just finished a Broadway run in the Jez Butterworth play The River, says he will hit the stage again next month.

"My one-man show I did here on Broadway a few years back, I'm going to do in Turkey. I'm very excited about that," he said.

He added: "It should be fun. We'll see how the Turks like it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"He used a lot of phrases and I had to end up Googling the slang. Neill was coming up with some really cool sayings. ... I was trying to think of more."

Hugh Jackman on director Neill Blomkamp's use of Aussie slang in Chappie

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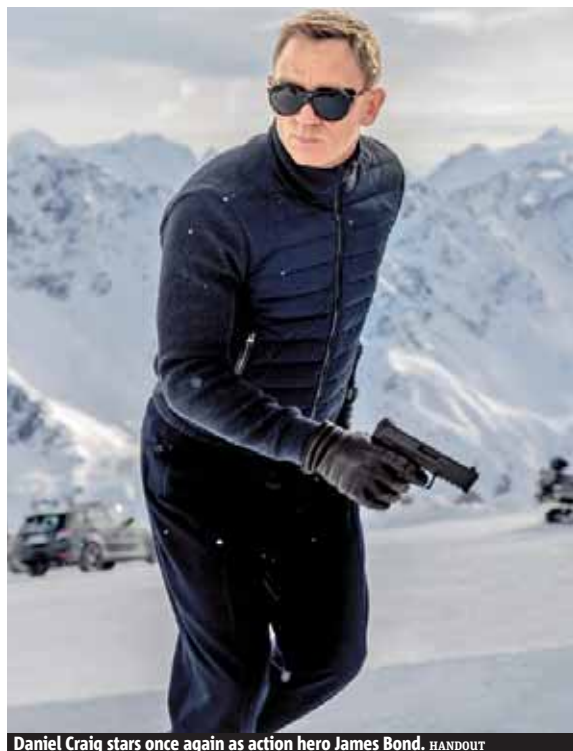
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Spectre crew offers behind-the-scenes look at Bond



Daniel Craig stars once again as action hero James Bond. HANDOUT

Film. Breathtaking background teaser released from set of 24th 007 film

The Sam Mendes and Daniel Craig picture Spectre is currently filming in Europe, and behind-the-scenes footage recently released online reveals

aspects of what Associate Producer Gregg Wilson calls "one of the major action sequences of the movie." That particular segment, which takes place high in the Austrian mountains, is "a jewel in the crown" according to Wilson, who commended the region for offering "everything that we needed to pull it off."

Supporting cast members Léa Seydoux and Dave Bau-

tista offer their thoughts on production so far, with production manager Martin Joy weighing in on the challenges of shooting in such remote circumstances.

"There's all the difficulties of going somewhere that's so cut off, coupled with the weather difficulties, the altitude," he says, "but the payoff is stunning scenery and an incredible location."

And for those who want more of a glimpse of how Spectre might eventually turn out, there's a three-second shot of Daniel Craig as Bond involved in the climax of a life-or-death struggle.

That accompanies the first still image of Daniel Craig as Bond of Spectre; a Nov. 6 release beckons for North American and international audience. **AFP**

Film. When in Rome, Stiller will strike a pose in Zoolander reboot

Actor and director Ben Stiller has finalized agreements to start production on a European-flavoured Zoolander 2.

Shooting will take place in Rome, and the film will feature a multinational cast.

Stiller had previously indicated that Rome was high on his wishlist for a second Zoolander film, and Feb. 10 saw Rome's mayor Ignazio Marino confirm via Facebook that plans were close to fruition.

"Ben Stiller will shoot his next film in our city this spring, with a cast of Americans and Italians," he wrote.

"Rome is returning to its status as one of great cinema's international destinations."

The first film helped cement the reputation of several comic actors who rose to fame as part of a loose affiliation dubbed the Frat Pack.

As catwalk clothing model Derek Zoolander (whose name was a send-up of '90s male supermodel Mark Vanderloo), Stiller had to overcome a rivalry with hunky young dreamer Hansel (Owen Wilson), woo an investigative journalist



Zoolander HANDOUT

(Christine Taylor) and defeat a global terror conspiracy orchestrated by a scheming fashion guru, Mugatu (Will Ferrell).

Stiller, Owen Wilson, Taylor and Ferrell are all tipped to return for Zoolander 2, which takes place a decade on from the events of its predecessor.

Penelope Cruz has been named as a high-profile newcomer, while Jonah Hill and model-turned-actress Cara Delevingne have also been linked with roles. **AFP**

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METRO'S TAKE ON
THE WORLD OF
CELEBRITIES

Uma's got something to say about her chameleon complexion



We might be more used to Thurman's look below, but the actress says she's been a fan of the makeup-free face for years. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

So yeah, those photos of Uma Thurman on the red carpet earlier this week that got so much attention? She heard what you've been saying about them. Thurman stopped by the Today show for a chat and inevitably the online uproar around her new look came up. "I look weird," Thurman admits. "I guess nobody liked my makeup. I mean, I've been doing this for years and years and years, and people say things nice and they say things mean, and it's just like, whatever!"

And for anyone suggesting the new look might have something more to it than just a distinct lack of eye makeup, check out her Today show look, where it's back to the Thurman we all know and love. And she admits she'll likely not be rocking that shocking red carpet look again. "We saw how well the dark lipstick worked the other night," she joked.

Guys, your pickup tricks make Vince Vaughn sick

Vince Vaughn might have become famous playing conniving womanizers in films like *Swingers* and *Wedding Crashers*, but he is absolutely appalled by the behaviour of his characters' real-life counterparts these days. Appalled.

"Gaming on women has become almost like the dark arts," he tells *Playboy*. "Like, if you're not cutting her down or using psycho-

logical tricks to make fun of her, you won't get anywhere."

But don't worry, he has some advice for those steered wrong by the likes of *Mystery*. "I would suggest that if you take the avenue of putting a woman down or making fun of her so she feels insecure enough to go out with you, you're ultimately screwing yourself," he says. "I mean, let's face it,



Bruce Jenner GETTY IMAGES

if you require coaching and techniques to get a woman, it'll come out as dishonest and you'll probably end up unhappy or alone." So, you know, don't be a creep. **NED**

EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD



Blake Lively GETTY IMAGES

About that Blake Lively baby name...

So, early reports that Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds named their newborn daughter Violet have been thoroughly discredited, with Reynolds himself telling *USA Today*,

"No, that's not the name. I don't want to get into that, but I don't know where that

came from." Got it. So then what is the little girl's name? And why are you being so weirdly secretive about it? It's just a name. And according to an anonymous source that's tipped off *E!* News, that name is actually James. Yes, a baby girl named James. Sure, why not?

Could Bruce be at fault for crash after all?



Bruce Jenner GETTY IMAGES

Police have not issued a statement on which driver is ultimately at fault for the four-car pileup last weekend involving Bruce Jenner that left one woman dead, but the lawyer for one of the drivers involved feels pretty strongly it was all Jenner's fault. Roger Simon, legal counsel for the driver of a Prius also involved in the crash, says the reluctant reality star is most definitely at fault — which, to be fair, isn't that much of a surprise. Honestly, what's he going to do? Call up the press and insist his own client is guilty? Simon disputes the official account of the incident, alleging in the *L.A. Times* that Jenner actually struck the white Lexus driven by the victim, Kim Howe, before continuing on to hit his client's car as well.

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Get on your lover's sweet side



This recipe serves two. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Valentine's Day. Chocolate Raspberry Crêmeux For Two beats store-bought treats



RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

Although we hardly need an excuse to enjoy a decadent dessert, it seems fitting to whip up something extra-special for Valentine's Day.

Dark Chocolate Crêmeux

1. In a bowl, combine the egg yolks and sugar with a whisk. Set aside.

2. In a saucepan, bring the cream to a boil. Remove from

the heat and add the chocolate. Allow to melt for 1 minute and stir until smooth. Gradually pour into the egg mixture, stirring constantly.

3. Add the butter and stir until smooth. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours.

White Chocolate Cream

1. In a bowl, place the chocolate. Set aside.

2. In a small saucepan or microwave oven, bring the cream to a boil.

3. Pour hot cream over chocolate. Allow to melt for 1 minute and stir the mixture with a whisk until smooth. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.

Macerated Raspberries

1. In bowl, combine raspberries, sugar and liqueur. Allow to macerate for about 5 minutes.

Assembly

1. Whip white chocolate cream with an electric mixer until medium-soft peaks appear.

2. On a large plate for two, spread the white chocolate cream. Using two tablespoons dipped in warm water, form five to six mounds, each with about 3 tbsp of dark chocolate crêmeux mixture. Place on the cream. Garnish with raspberries and serve with 2 spoons.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Liquid Assets

Bring bubbles to Feb. 14



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm having sparkling wine this Valentine's Day, how about you?

While I'm no poet, all you guys out there better take advantage of this Feb. 14 falling on a Saturday by bringing breakfast in bed to your significant other paired with a glass of something fresh and fizzy.

If expensive French champagne isn't in your snack bracket, pick up a bubbly made in the traditional method. The process developed in the Champagne region infuses wines with effervescence through a second fermentation in the bottle.

Most traditional method wines taste as close to champagne as you'll ever get for less than \$20, with those from Spain identified as Cava leading the pack.

If you prefer your bubbles to be less obvious, look to Italian Prosecco.

Not as moussy as a typical sparkler, wines like

La Marca Prosecco (\$17.95 - \$19.99) have taken the world by storm over the last few years thanks to their zippy acidity, creamy flavour trail and cocktail-esque personality.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



Melt chocolate and hearts

1. In a bowl, combine 2 tbsp of cocoa powder and sugar. Butter six 1/2-cup (125 ml) ramekins and sprinkle with the cocoa and sugar mix. With rack in the

middle position, preheat the oven to 375 F (190 C).

2. In bowl, sift together flour and 1/2 cup (50 g) of the cocoa

powder. Set aside.

3. Over double boiler, melt the chocolate and butter. Let cool.

4. In another bowl, whisk the eggs with the sugar for about 4 minutes or until the mixture is light and fluffy.

5. With a spatula, fold in the flour and cocoa mixture. Add the chocolate and stir gently.

6. Pour half the batter into the ramekins. Place 1/6 of the



This recipe makes four servings. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

white chocolate and a Bing cherry (or 2 morello cherries) in the centre of each ramekin. Top with the remaining batter.

7. Bake for about 16 minutes.

8. Let cool slightly, unmould and serve immediately. If serving is delayed, reheat cakes in the microwave oven. If desired, serve with fresh cherries half dipped in chocolate. **RICARDO**

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (13 g) cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp (26 g) sugar
- 1/2 cup (70 g) flour
- 1/2 cup (50 g) cocoa powder
- 8 oz (225 g) dark chocolate, chopped
- 1/4 cup (57 g) butter

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup (105 g) sugar

Filling

- 3 oz (90 g) white chocolate, chopped
- 6 canned Bing cherries, drained
- Icing sugar

3 T I M E

Breaking bad habits

Germ warfare. Subtle daily tasks can make you more vulnerable to cold and flu viruses

HELEN
RACANELLI
For Metro

Good hand-washing is vital to avoiding colds and flu, but you might be surprised that some little bad habits might be exposing you to nasty germs.

Here are a few culprits that could be undermining your health.

Pressing elevator buttons

That elevator button at your place of work or your apartment building harbours harmful bacteria. According to a 2014 study in *Open Medicine* journal, 61 per cent of elevator buttons in three Toronto hospitals were col-

onized with bacteria. Toilets in the hospitals were also swabbed. You can probably guess where this is going: The toilet surfaces had significantly less bacteria than elevator buttons at 43 per cent. If you must touch the button with bare fingers, wash your hands after the elevator trip, or use your elbow, or even a pen cap to touch the buttons.

Being within six feet of someone with a cold

Although it may feel a bit rude, it's almost a natural instinct to edge away from someone sneezing or coughing rampantly. That instinct is correct and, actually, the distance you need is not

only arm's length, it's further. Six feet, or two metres, is the proper distance to keep away from individuals infected with the flu and colds, according to public health officials.

Touching your face

Wiping crumbs off your lips, scratching your cheek or even resting a chin in your hand are all ways you are physically depositing germs near your mouth and nose.

Chances are you touch your face many times in a day without even thinking twice about it. Public health experts say you should always wash your hands before touching your face. That's

not always practical, so if you can't get to a sink, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Be sure to rub the sanitizer over the tips of your fingers, not just around the palms of your hands.



That elevator button at your place of work or your apartment building harbours harmful bacteria. SHUTTERSTOCK



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PHC-13942

CFL

Eskimos sign receiver Miles

The Edmonton Eskimos signed international free-agent receiver Wallace Miles on Thursday.

The six-foot-one, 195-pound Miles had 50 catches for 732 yards and four TDs last season with the Ottawa Redblacks.

Prior to being selected by Ottawa in the CFL expansion draft, Miles played two seasons with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, registering 16 receptions for 193 yards and one TD. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHL

Vegas halfway to goal in ticket drive

Las Vegas appears well on its way to showing the



Bill Foley
GETTY IMAGES

NHL that it deserves an expansion team.

Less than 48 hours into its season-ticket drive, Hockey Vision Las

Vegas says it is already halfway to the goal of 10,000 deposits.

"We are off to a great start," prospective owner Bill Foley said in a statement. "It is our hope that the Las Vegas community will continue to rally around this incredible initiative. We've seen an outpouring of support, and we know Southern Nevadans will continue to place deposits to help us demonstrate that Las Vegas can support its first major-league sports franchise."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA



"He's not relaxing. He wants to win, and he wants to try and win big. That's what he wants, and he's not just any player but your point guard, your lead player."

Raptors general manager Masai Ujiri on Toronto's lone all-star representative at this weekend's festivities in New York City. Lowry is averaging a career-high 18.8 points a game, and continues to endear himself to fans with his heart and hustle.



Sens and Pens do battle on Canadian Tire Centre ice

Senators goalie Robin Lehner makes a save on Penguins forward Beau Bennett on Thursday night at the Canadian Tire Centre. The Sens were coming off of a 2-1 win over the Sabres on Tuesday, while the Penguins had most recently beaten the Red Wings 4-1 on Wednesday night. Go to metronews.ca for the final score and more coverage. **ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Homan homing in on Scotties 3-peat

Curling. Strong field stands in way Ottawa rink winning another national championship

Rachel Homan is looking to join a select list of women's curlers who have skipped their teams to three straight national titles.

Standing in her way is a strong field at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, which includes the last woman to accomplish the rare three-peat — reigning Olympic champion Jennifer Jones of Manitoba.

Val Sweeting, who lost to Homan in last year's final at Montreal, will represent Alberta, three-time Canada Cup champion Stefanie Lawton of Saskatchewan will skip the host province entry and five-time Scotties champion Mary-Anne Arsenault will represent Nova Scotia.

"Nothing is guaranteed,"



Rachel Homan is aiming to become the fourth curler to skip a team to three straight national women's titles. **THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE**

Homan said. "There are so many good teams at the Scotties and so much talent, it's definitely going to be a fight in every game for us to win."

Main draw competition begins Saturday at Mosaic Place. Other confirmed entries include Patti Knezevic of B.C., Julie Hastings of Ontario, Quebec's Lauren Mann, Prince Edward Island's Suzanne Birt, Heather Strong of Newfound-

land and Labrador and New Brunswick's Sylvie Robichaud.

Homan is aiming to join Jones (2008-10), Colleen Jones (01-04) and Vera Pezer (1971-73) as the only curlers who have skipped their rinks to three straight national women's titles.

The Team Canada entry has a different look this season.

Homan, third Emma Mis-kew and lead Lisa Weagle

Rankings

3rd

Homan sits third behind Jones and Sweeting on the Canadian Team Ranking List.

added second Joanne Courtney from Sweeting's team as a replacement for Alison Kreviazuk, who left the rink to be with her boyfriend in Sweden.

"It feels like she's been on the team for longer than a year now, it's been really good," Homan said of her new teammate.

In addition, coach Earle Morris ended his long run with Homan's side to coach his son's team this season. Richard Hart, who plays for Team Glenn Howard, will handle coaching duties for the defending champions at the Scotties.

The Scotties winner will represent Canada at the March 14-22 world women's curling championship in Sapporo, Japan. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Golden slumbers for king Kingsbury



Canadians, from left, Marc-Antoine Gagnon (bronze), Mikael Kingsbury (gold) and Philippe Marquis (silver) swept the men's dual moguls final of the FIS freestyle ski and snowboard world championship last month in Kreischberg, Austria. LARS BARON/GETTY IMAGES

Freestyle Skiing.

Young ace and his teammates are prone to sleepwalking due to sport's travel demands

Mikael Kingsbury and Canada's freestyle ski team work so hard that sleepwalking has become a hazard.

Kingsbury, from Deux-Montagnes, Que., is thriving in the demanding World Cup schedule as he closes in on his fourth straight Crystal Globe as the best freestyle skier in the world this season. Even with his focus on the next race, Kingsbury occasionally gets distracted by bouts of somnambulism.

"When we were going to the world championships, one of my teammates, Marc-Antoine Gagnon, sleepwalked on the plane. He was asleep, he had his mask on and he was dreaming that he was getting attacked by bees," said Kingsbury with a laugh on Wednesday. "He got out of his seat and started running through the aisles, started

climbing up on people in the plane. Someone had to wake him up."

Added Kingsbury: "A couple of years ago I broke my toe before a race while sleepwalking. We're big sleepwalkers on our team. We're too tired because we don't have a time zone. We're in Japan, we're in Europe, back in America, back to Japan, back to Europe. We travel a lot." It may be a tiring lifestyle, but Kingsbury enjoys it.

"It's worth it. It's fun. I've been travelling like this since I was 17, 18 years old, around the world. There's not a lot of people my age who've seen the planet like I have. We're lucky to travel like that," said the 22-year-old Kingsbury. "We're living the dream. Some of my friends wanted to play in the NHL, but I always wanted to be a World Cup skier and win medals and be one of the best skiers in the world."

Kingsbury could make that goal by the end of the season. He's already the most successful Canadian moguls skier ever with 26 World Cup victories, and he's just two wins away from tying the all-time record,

Perk of the job

"There's not a lot of people my age who've seen the planet like I have. We're lucky to travel like that."

Canadian World Cup skier Michael Kingsbury

held by France's Edgar Gros-
siron.

"When I'm skiing I'm not thinking about that," said Kingsbury, while acknowledging that matching Grosiron would be a special accomplishment. "I'm a guy that likes records, they keep me motivated. I can write my name in the history books."

"One thing at a time though. This isn't my focus. It's just a fun thing." The Olympic silver medalist has only improved since the Sochi Games, winning his fifth straight World Cup on Saturday. He's got a sizable lead in the overall standings with 529 points, well ahead of Russia's Alexandr Smyslyayev (281) with three events left.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tennis

Pospisil knocked out by Murray

Vancouver's Vasek Pospisil was eliminated from the World Tennis Tournament on Thursday following a 6-3, 7-5 loss to top-seeded Andy Murray in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Murray, who faces eighth-seeded Gilles Simon in the next round, fought back from a break of serve in the second set and won the last four games. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Shot put

Medal for cheated hero Armstrong

Canadian shot putter Dylan Armstrong will receive an Olympic bronze medal that was stripped from Belarusian Andrei Mikhnevich for doping at the 2008 Beijing Games.

Six-and-a-half years to the day after just missing the podium, Armstrong will get the medal Sunday in his hometown of Kamloops, British Columbia. Armstrong becomes the first Canadian shot putter to win an Olympic medal. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Figure skating. Duhamel and Radford in driver's seat at Four Continents

The perfect season continues for Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford.

Canada's top pairs team have a commanding lead after Thursday's short program of the Four Continents figure skating championships in Seoul, South Korea.

"We are really proud of our skate today, it's an indication of how we train at home," Duhamel said. "We weren't 100 per cent comfortable at the start but when the music began, our training and muscle memory kicked in." Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmertown, Ont., are two-time world bronze medalists, and have won every competition they've entered this season, including the Grand Prix Final in December.

They scored 75.67 points Thursday, recording their highest ever artistic scores for a short program.

"Our artistic score is something we are always striving to improve upon," Duhamel said. "The best feeling is when you can keep improving as the season goes on. A good long program (Saturday) here will set us up well for the world championships."



Eric Radford and Meagan Duhamel
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese teams are second and third. Peng Cheng and Zhang Hao scored 69.81 points, for second, followed by Sui Wenjing and Han Cong (69.19 points).

The pairs free program will be Saturday. Canada's ice dance teams sit in third, fourth and fifth after the short dance. Madison Chock and Evan Bates of the U.S. are the leaders with 70.38 points while Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje of Waterloo, Ont., winners of this season's Grand Prix Final, scored 68.31 for third. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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The numbers add up.



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Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	6	5	9	7	1	2	3
7	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	6
5	2	1	3	4	6	7	8	9
9	5	8	6	7	3	2	4	1
4	6	7	9	1	2	8	3	5
3	1	2	4	5	8	6	9	7
1	7	3	2	8	5	9	6	4
6	8	4	7	3	9	5	1	2
2	9	5	1	6	4	3	7	8

					7	1		
				3			9	
				4			3	8
	1	2			9	7		
4				5	1	2		8
8							4	
	2						6	
		7	8	5	6	4		
			9		4			

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See for yourself.



That's just good banking.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will notice things today that people have overlooked. But don't expect many thanks when you point out what they have missed. Some people just do not want to be told anything.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You will see something to your advantage over the next 24 hours, something that can have a positive effect on your career. You will recognize it as soon as you see it.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Don't accept things just because the "experts" tell you they are true. All too often the "experts" are actually nothing of the sort.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Don't give up on something just because it does not seem to be working out the way you intended. That applies doubly if you have spent a lot of money on it. Give it time and you will eventually see a return on your investment.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

It might be tempting to stick your nose in someone's business today but if you do you will likely regret it, especially if they know something about you that could be embarrassing.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't push yourself over the next 24 hours. Loved ones will happily share the burden of what you want done today, so spread the load. Work-wise, make this a day of planning.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You will find it easy to forgive others' mistakes today but not so easy to forgive your own. You have set such high standards for yourself there are bound to be times when you cannot live up to them.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Information will come your way today that makes you wonder if some of the things you have been led to believe are true. It may upset you to discover that you have been misled.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

One way or another you must get your message across. Hopefully people will stop what they are doing and listen but, if not, grab hold of them and yell at them. They will hear you.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You seem to know just the right thing to say to get people on your side. Make that work in your favour today, especially when dealing with money. Your way with words could make you, and save you, a pile of cash

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Now that Mercury, planet of the mind, is moving in your favour again your head should be full of ideas. Take the initiative and start something new.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

If you need to be alone with your thoughts by all means go off on your own for a while. You don't have to make excuses to those who were hoping for the pleasure of your company. It's good to keep them wanting more.

It pays to bank in one place.

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Yesterday's Crossword



Online

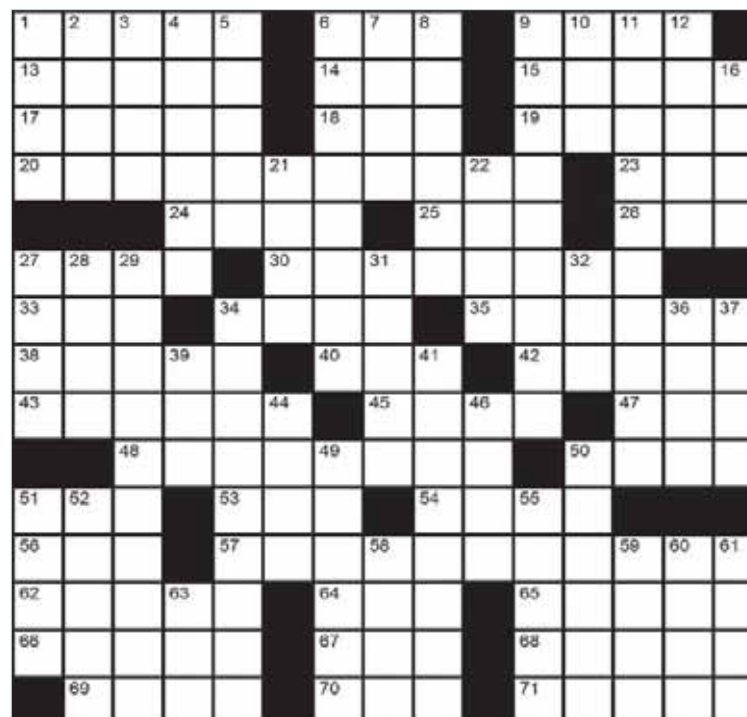
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. "Cheers" character
6. Slangy put down
9. Church's vaulted part
13. Pantheon of Norse gods
14. Cousin on classic TV
15. Ringed and Harp
17. Fend, ___ off
18. "RCMP", e.g.
19. Birth a bovine
20. Shania Twain hit: 3 wds.
23. Neckwear
24. Texas city
25. Mr. Morrison
26. Sugar amt.
27. Goblins
30. Brewing company, ___-Busch
33. Paddle
34. Ore deposit
35. Water down
38. "Oh ___ Feeling": Hit for Hamilton band Crowbar
40. As written
42. Mr. Wilde
43. Freddy ___ (Music bigwig who was Madonna's manager for several years)
45. Tibia's locale
47. Josh
48. Exaltée's elevation
50. Castaway's refuge
51. Deed
53. ___-Cat (Ski hill machine)
54. Demeanor
56. Thames toilet



57. Non front-row-sitting person in Parliament
62. Thrust
64. Comparative suffix
65. Celebrity chef Guy
66. Ringo
- Who?
67. Neil
- Young's "I ___ Child"

68. "___ to Be You"
69. America's Maritime Guardian org.
70. Myrna of movies
71. Branch beds
- Down
1. Wallet stuff
2. Actor Jared

3. "This ___ unexpected surprise!"
4. Journalist's basic questions: wd. + li'l bit more
5. Norse goddess of love
6. "The Stroll" by Canadian quartet The ___
7. Longing

8. Endeavoured
9. Space mission mystery on the CBC
10. The Princess and the ___
11. Familiar sights on Winter roads: 2 wds.
12. Canadian skating great Mr. Stojko
16. Permeate

21. Flight-related UN Agency headquartered in Montreal [acronym]
22. Lucy Montgomery link (Canuck writer)
27. "___ you do that?"
28. South Dakota dam
29. National Basketball League of Canada team: wd. + li'l bit more
31. Professional thief's operation
32. Chicago trains
34. TSN: Canadian sports broadcaster Michael
36. Follow the car
37. Earth: German
39. ___ kwon do
41. Denim-look shirt material
44. "99 Luftballons" by ___
46. Eurythmics' "Would ___ to You?"
49. Tea party, for one
50. Instigate
51. Shakespeare: ___ Well That Ends Well
52. Jean ___ (Quebec pharmacy chain)
55. Finally, in Montreal
58. Westerns: ___ Sabe (The Lone Ranger, to Tonto)
59. Devious chuckles
60. 'E' in QED
61. Frees
63. RCMP's French acronym

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